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## ABSTRACT

This Kids Count data book examines trends in the well-being of Minnesota's children. The statistical portrait is based on 11 indicators of child well-being: (1) child poverty rate; (2) children receiving free or reduced-price school lunch; (3) children in families receiving food stamps; (4) births to teenage mothers; (5) low birth weight rates; (6) children transferring schools; (7) drop-out rates; (8) children arrested for serious crime; (9) child abuse and neglect rates; (10) children in out-of-home placements; and (11) children dying violently. Following an introduction detailing the major findings, the report provides regional and statewide statistical summaries for each indicator, discusses the importance of the indicator, describes potential improvement strategies, provides information on resources related to the indicators, and describes Minnesota trends. Four stories are interspersed throughout the data book to illustrate the results of Kids Count efforts in various counties. The bulk of the report provides statistical information on the indicators for each county. Findings indicate that 1 in 9 Minnesota children lived below the poverty line in 1996. The teen birth rate has declined by 20 percent from the 1993-95 rate. Almost every region of the state showed an increase in the rate of low birth weight infants. Arrests of children for serious crime has also increased from earlier in the decade. There has been a steady decline in child deaths due to injuries. The report concludes with definitions of the indicators and their sources. (KB)

# Minnesota Kids: A Closer Look 2000 Data Book

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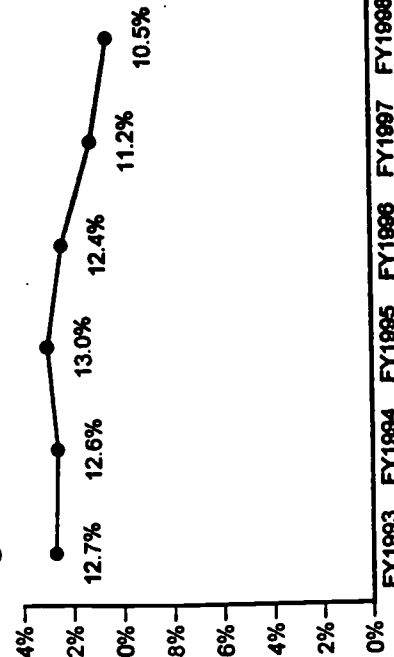
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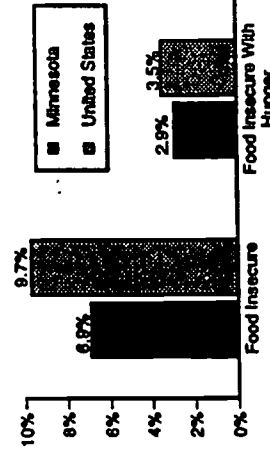
# Errata

Area	1993	%	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1998-99 % change
REGION 1	4,728	18.0%	4,397	4,113	3,710	4,828	4,395	18.0%
REGION 2	5,144	25.2%	4,989	4,711	4,680	4,478	4,611	21.7%
REGION 3	13,480	16.9%	12,995	11,981	10,875	9,538	9,021	11.7%
REGION 4	9,127	16.9%	8,761	8,397	7,542	6,325	5,656	10.4%
REGION 5	6,393	16.2%	6,221	5,917	5,378	4,693	4,371	10.8%
REGION 6	6,619	14.2%	6,202	5,727	4,755	3,757	3,354	7.6%
REGION 7	11,026	9.2%	10,634	10,111	9,364	8,044	7,497	5.7%
REGION 8	3,427	10.1%	3,189	2,978	2,736	2,247	2,098	6.7%
REGION 9	5,917	10.1%	5,760	5,384	5,021	4,063	3,616	6.3%
REGION 10	10,673	9.0%	10,538	10,582	10,292	8,890	7,889	6.7%
Hennepin	35,482	14.2%	38,299	45,363	45,701	45,296	43,647	17.6%
Ramsey	29,098	22.6%	30,098	30,019	29,742	28,522	26,509	21.7%
Surr. Metro	16,625	6.3%	15,851	15,498	14,415	11,986	11,381	4.0%
STATE	157,739	12.7%	157,842	160,781	154,211	140,678	132,047	10.5%

## Percentage of Children Receiving Food Stamps



## Percentage of Households Experiencing Food Insecurity or Hunger, 1996-98



Source: US Department of Agriculture, 1999. Food insecurity is defined as limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods.

**Children Changing Schools**  
Revised Numbers

**Errata**

COUNTY	1995-96	%	1997-98	%
Aitkin	320	13%	350	15%
Anoka	9,625	16%	10,207	16%
Becker	700	14%	750	15%
Beltrami	1,913	23%	2,505	30%
Benton	390	8%	400	8%
Big Stone	63	4%	86	6%
Blue Earth	1,085	10%	1,279	12%
Brown	440	10%	588	13%
Carlton	757	12%	731	11%
Carver	1,018	10%	1,041	10%
Cass	901	20%	953	20%
Chippewa	236	8%	242	9%
Chisago	861	12%	878	11%
Clay	1,740	18%	1,611	17%
Clearwater	189	10%	217	12%
Cook	95	13%	74	10%
Cottonwood	199	8%	201	10%
Crow Wing	1,659	16%	1,546	15%
Dakota	7,460	11%	7,527	11%
Dodge	468	12%	427	11%
Douglas	390	7%	431	8%
Faribault	307	11%	276	10%
Fillmore	205	6%	227	6%
Freeborn	617	12%	603	12%
Goodhue	906	10%	834	9%
Grant	143	9%	113	7%
Hennepin	25,348	17%	27,323	18%
Houston	213	6%	229	6%
Hubbard	363	12%	391	13%
Isanti	667	12%	612	11%
Itasca	1,054	13%	938	11%
Jackson	173	9%	224	11%
Kanabec	425	15%	429	15%
Kandiyohi	1,246	19%	1,236	19%
Kittson	41	3%	76	7%
Koochiching	278	11%	269	11%
Lac que Parle	143	8%	204	10%
Lake	449	20%	163	8%
Lake of the Woods	61	7%	71	8%
LeSueur	564	11%	612	12%
Lincoln	54	5%	63	6%
Lyon	550	11%	489	10%
MacLeod	727	11%	662	10%
Mahnomen	366	24%	402	27%

COUNTY	1995-96	%	1997-98	%
Marshall	225	11%	212	11%
Martin	404	10%	541	13%
Meeker	474	8%	462	7%
Mille Lacs	838	14%	931	15%
Morrison	539	9%	476	8%
Mower	756	12%	809	13%
Murray	124	8%	115	7%
Nicollet	189	8%	206	9%
Nobles	610	17%	729	20%
Norman	154	10%	159	11%
Olmsted	2,865	14%	3,095	15%
Otter Tail	1,017	11%	1,084	11%
Pennington	267	10%	270	11%
Pine	969	21%	821	18%
Pipestone	240	11%	172	8%
Polk	1,119	17%	1,153	18%
Pope	111	6%	131	7%
Ramsey	15,167	19%	17,164	20%
Red Lake	76	8%	68	7%
Redwood	359	10%	426	12%
Renville	403	15%	433	16%
Rice	954	12%	1,061	13%
Rock	153	8%	176	10%
Roseau	316	8%	382	10%
Saint Louis	5,013	15%	5,150	16%
Scott	1,081	10%	1,225	10%
Sherburne	1,021	9%	1,092	9%
Sibley	282	12%	299	12%
Stearns	2,352	9%	2,525	7%
Steele	708	11%	788	12%
Stevens	113	5%	124	7%
Swift	167	9%	188	10%
Todd	334	9%	555	12%
Traverse	77	10%	82	11%
Wabasha	330	8%	305	7%
Wadena	377	12%	343	10%
Waseca	373	9%	434	10%
Washington	3,576	11%	3,426	10%
Watsonwan	346	15%	316	15%
Wilkin	197	13%	175	12%
Winona	679	10%	590	9%
Wright	1,677	10%	1,586	9%
Yellow Medicine	154	7%	183	8%

STATE	112,762	13.7%	118,989	14.2%
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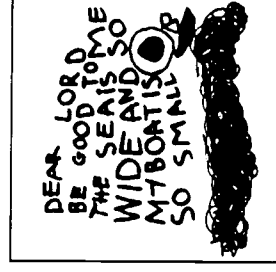
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Minnesota Kids: A Closer Look, 2000 Data Book

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# Minnesota Kids: A Closer Look 2000 Data Book

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**Children's Defense Fund-Minnesota**



Children's Defense Fund

Minnesota KIDS COUNT is a joint project of the  
Children's Defense Fund-Minnesota  
and  
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at the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition.

Minnesota KIDS COUNT releases periodic reports and an annual data book to provide a statistical profile of Minnesota's children and suggestions for action on their behalf. This data book was made possible through funds provided by the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

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**Please visit the KIDS Initiative web site,  
a central access point for data about Minnesota children!  
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The 2000 Minnesota KIDS COUNT *Data Book* shows some positive trends as well as new areas of concern for children in the state. The fifth annual *Data Book* reveals an overall decline in poverty rates for children, a reduction in children committing violent crimes and a decline in teen births. The report also documents examples of communities successfully responding to challenges facing their children and families.

### **Measuring How Children Are Doing**

The **Family Economics** indicators try to illustrate how family economic well-being is connected to child success. Statistics about children living in poverty, receiving food stamps and free/reduced price school lunch, along with information about unemployment rates, per capita personal income and other measures of the economy tell us something about the larger economic environment surrounding families. It also gives us an idea of the overall resources available for investment in child well-being.

The **Starting Out** indicators are warnings of future problems: children born at low birth weight, or to teen parents, and children who are not ready for school or changing schools too often. Children in these circumstances are less likely to fare well as they grow up and after they become adults. Often, situations such as early parenthood, school failure and child abuse and neglect repeat themselves in future generations.

## **INTRODUCTION**

The **Signs of Trouble** indicators largely reflect our failures rather than telling us if children have what they need to succeed. Measuring how many children drop out of school, how many are reported as abused or in out of home placements, commit crimes or die tell us something about where we've fallen short. They point to families that weren't able to provide their children with their basic needs for healthy growth and development, schools that did not serve the best interests of their students, social services systems that did not intervene in time.

The pyramid of success on the next page shows a different model for looking at how many factors in our communities and families contribute to successful children. While we can't yet measure many of these factors, research tells us of their importance for children's growth and development.

We know too little about our successes. We don't record the adult mentor who keeps a teenager from getting into trouble, the church that takes in a desperate young mother and offers her support, the social worker who helps resolve a difficult family situation and keeps a child safe, the assistance provided by Minnesota Care that gets medical help for a child with a hearing problem that could have led to school failure later. The four stories scattered throughout this year's data book illustrate average Minnesotans who took the data from KIDS COUNT and made a difference in the lives of children.

*Introduction, continued on p. 2*

# INTRODUCTION, continued

## Findings from the 2000 KIDS COUNT Data Book

### Children Living Below the Poverty Line

About one in nine Minnesota children lived below the poverty line in 1996 (the latest year for which figures are available.) Poverty rates for children have declined since the middle 1990's in both Minnesota and the United States. Children are still more likely to live in poverty than any other age group.

### Children Receiving Free/Reduced-Price School Lunch

Over one in four Minnesota children received free/reduced-price school lunch in 1998-1999, meaning that over one quarter of Minnesota school children live in low-income families. This percentage has varied little from 1991-92 through the present. As few as 13% of surrounding metro area students need the program, in contrast with rates of over 50% in Region 2 in northern Minnesota.

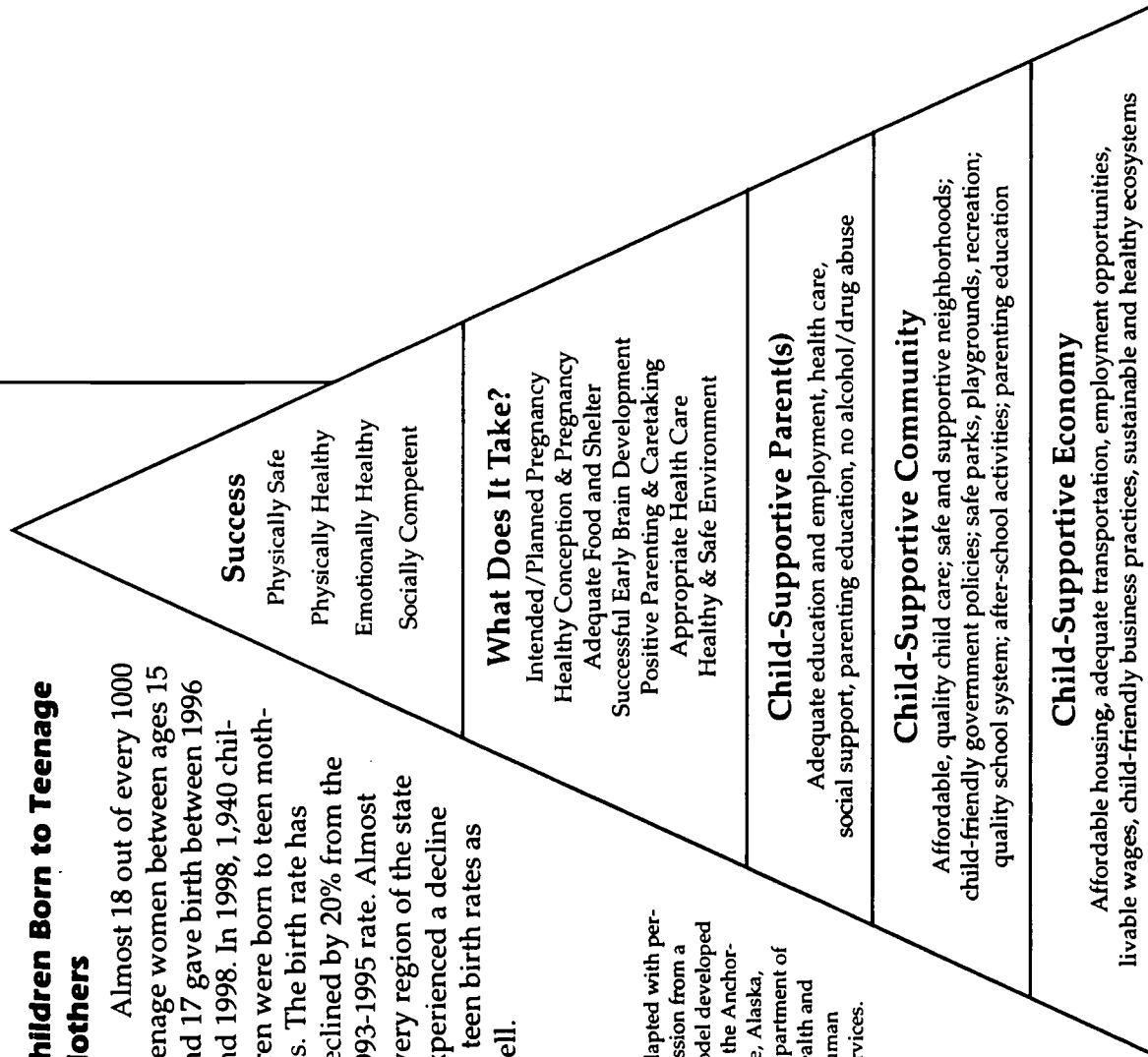
### Children Receiving Food Stamps

About one in twelve Minnesota children received food stamps in 1998. Minnesota has seen a modest increase in the number of children receiving food stamps throughout the 1990's. Most regions in the state saw an increase of various sizes, with the exception of the surrounding metropolitan area, which saw a 25% decline between 1991 and 1998.

### Children Born to Teenage Mothers

Almost 18 out of every 1000 teenage women between ages 15 and 17 gave birth between 1996 and 1998. In 1998, 1,940 children were born to teen mothers. The birth rate has declined by 20% from the 1993-1995 rate. Almost every region of the state experienced a decline in teen birth rates as well.

Adapted with permission from a model developed by the Anchorage, Alaska, Department of Health and Human Services.



## INTRODUCTION, continued

### Children Born at Low Birth Weight

About one out of every 17 babies born in Minnesota in 1998 was born at less than 5.5 pounds. Low birth weight babies are more frequent in Region 10 in Southeastern Minnesota, and in Hennepin and Ramsey counties. Almost every region of the state showed an increase from 1991 to 1998.

### Children Changing Schools

There was about one transfer for every six children enrolled in Minnesota schools in the 1997-98 school year. This is a 29% increase from the 1992-93 school year. Transfers increased in almost every region, including several regions that saw an increase of more than 40%.

### Children Dropping Out of School

About one out of every thirty Minnesota children dropped out of school during the 1997-98 school year. Seventy-eight percent of the class of 1998 graduated on time. Eleven percent dropped out, and 11% continued in school. Graduation rates for children of color in the class of 1998 were significantly worse than those for white students. While 82% of white students graduated on time, that rate dropped to 68% for Asian, 49% for Hispanic, 43% for Indian and 36% for African-American students.

### Children Arrested for Serious Crime

There were 18,416 arrests of children for serious crimes in 1998, a decrease from earlier in the decade.

Close to half of all arrests for serious crimes were of children. Of all arrests of children for serious crimes, one in nine were for violent crimes.

### Children Abused and Neglected

Just over eight out of every 1000 Minnesota children had a substantiated report of child abuse or neglect in 1998, a total of 10,572 children. Substantiated reports were highest in Hennepin and Ramsey counties and lowest in northern Minnesota and the surrounding metro counties.

### Children in Out-of-Home Placement

About 15 out of every 1000 children in Minnesota were in out-of-home placements in 1998. Most regions of the state saw an increase in placements since 1991.

### Children Dying from Homicide, Suicide, and Injuries

Just over one out of every 10,000 children in Minnesota died from homicide, suicide or injuries in 1998. The death rate per 10,000 children fluctuated throughout the first half of the decade. However, there have been four years of steady decreases from 1995 through 1998, largely due to a decline in deaths from injuries. Motor vehicle deaths comprised 42% of deaths in this category, followed by deaths from injuries (32%).

# KIDS COUNT In Action

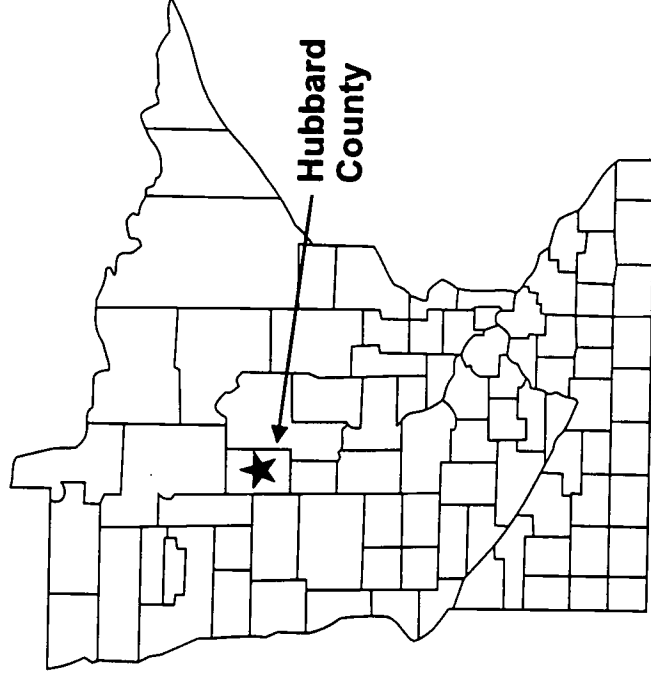
Kids in Hubbard County are finding positive peer support by joining youth groups sponsored by a local church.

Church members became concerned when they saw data from the KIDS COUNT data book. According to these figures, 19% of children living in Hubbard County lived below the poverty level and 5% of all Hubbard County children dropped out of school before graduation. Members were also concerned about an increase in violence among children.

A meeting was convened of community members, the Mayor, the town of Nevis police chief and the Hubbard County Sheriff in April 1999. Members of Bethany Lutheran Church felt they could best respond by hiring a youth ministry coordinator. Skip Gooch was hired in October.

Skip reports that they already have programs in place. These include a senior high school youth group, which does service work in the community, a junior high group, and a release-time program. Another program still in the works is an AlaTeen program for youth with chemical dependency problems in their families.

When asked how things have changed in the community, Skip responded by saying, "This is setting things in motion. It usually takes 3-5 years to see success."

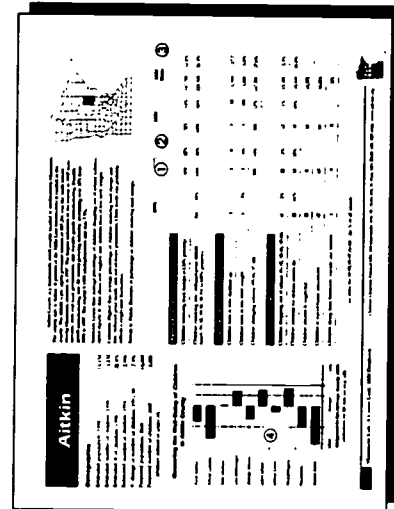


(Information from "Crime Prompts More Concerns," by Sue Gray, *Northwoods Press*, April 22, 1999, and an interview with Skip Gooch.)

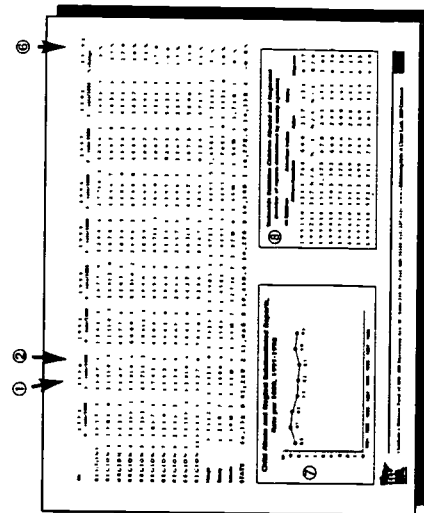
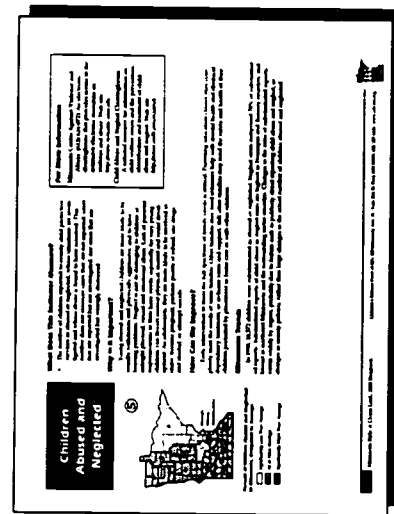
## How to Read the Tables

- ① **Number of Children.** It helps to know the actual number of children affected by a problem, as well as the percentage. Small numbers in a category may fluctuate significantly from year to year, making interpretation more difficult.
- ② **Percent or Rate of Children** (compared to total population, total births, total school enrollment, etc.). Unless the number of children is very small, percentages and rates provide useful comparisons across time, even if the comparison group increases or decreases in size.
- ③ **State Average.** This number compares a county to the state as a whole.
- ④ **Bar Charts.** These charts allow comparisons of different indicators within a county. At a glance, a county can be compared to the "average county." (For more detail about the bar charts, please see the data notes at the end of the book.)
- ⑤ **Map.** The map ranks regions in thirds, allowing for regional comparisons. It can also help determine if a problem is concentrated in certain areas of the state.
- ⑥ **Percent Change.** This figure reveals trends over time (1991-1998). Small numbers in some regions can create relatively large percentage changes, however.
- ⑦ **Line Graph.** This shows the statewide trend for an indicator for each year of available data.
- ⑧ **Statewide Statistics by Race.** This provides a breakdown of the data by race and ethnicity when available.

## Sample County Page



## Sample Indicator Pages





# KIDS COUNT In Action

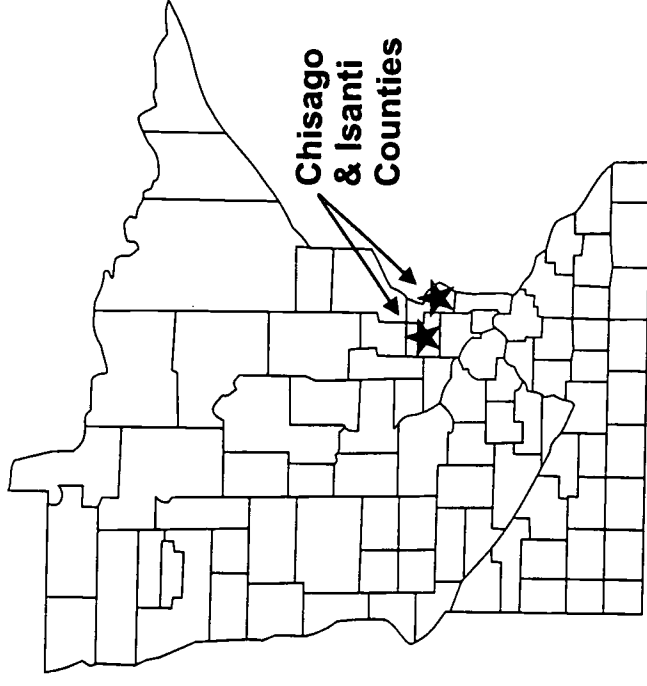
For kids in Chisago and Isanti counties, it's becoming easier to find a supportive adult these days.

Sarah Lund, Program Coordinator of "Kids Like Us," has worked hard to pair children in grades 3-8 with adult mentors in the community. These mentor relationships provide opportunities for youth to meet with adults and pursue common interests. Some of these have included softball tournaments, woodworking projects, Twins games, and working with computers. Mentors even help children with their homework.

One incentive for starting the program came from data taken from the 1998 KIDS COUNT Data Book. It showed that youth in Isanti and Chisago counties were more likely to drop out of school, and that there were more reports of child abuse & neglect and out-of-home placements when compared to other counties in Minnesota.

Sarah says that families are becoming more scattered and many older people are too busy or have little time to spend with children. The mentor/youth relationship that is set up through the program provides relationships between youth and adults. It offers an opportunity for children to access safe, healthy and convenient community resources.

(Information from "Area Mentoring Program is off to a good start," by Mary Helen Swanson. *Isanti County News*, December 16, 1998, and interview with Sarah Lund.)



# Family Economics



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# Children Living in Poverty

## What Does This Indicator Measure?

- The number of children in Minnesota who live below the federally defined definition of poverty. These numbers are estimates by the U.S. Census Bureau, and changes in the economy since 1996 are not reflected in these figures. The latest estimates at the county level are from 1995 and are available in previous editions of the Minnesota KIDS COUNT data book.

## Why Is It Important?

Poverty matters to poor children and their parents, and it matters to society. Poor children are at increased risk of health problems, including low birth weight, stunted growth, and anemia; educational problems including lower test scores and learning disabilities; and increased likelihood of dropping out of school, becoming single parents, and being poor themselves as adults.

Growing up poor matters due to a combination of factors that affect every area of a child's life. For example, low-income families may have more stress and conflict due to feeling more economic pressure. There may be more limited learning opportunities at home because of lack of books or computers, and less likelihood of attending camp, participating in music lessons or athletics. Children in poor families are more likely to experience lower quality childcare, poor nutrition, and bad housing (which can cause serious health problems such as asthma, which in turn can result in a child missing school.) Finally, low-income families may be more isolated, lacking regular phone service and reliable transportation.

## How Can We Improve?

The two factors that have contributed most to the decrease in child poverty since 1993 are increases in employment and wages, and an expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit (a tax credit for low-income working families.) In order to improve employment and increase wages, however, low-income parents need education and training for well-paying jobs, adequate, affordable childcare and health care, and stable housing. Otherwise, working intermittently at low-wage jobs without benefits will not pull families out of poverty.

## Minnesota Trends

In 1996, about one in nine Minnesota children lived in poverty. Poverty rates for all persons, all children, and children under five have declined since the mid-1990's for the United States and for Minnesota. Children are more likely to live in poverty than any other age group in the country or state, and younger children are the most likely to be poor. Minnesota poverty rates tend to be lower than rates for the United States as a whole.

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## For More Information

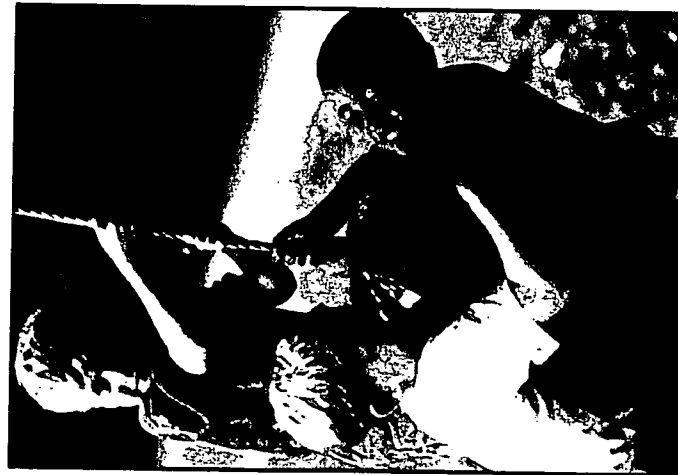
Children's Defense Fund. *Poverty Matters: The Cost of Child Poverty in America*. 1998. (202) 628-8787.

Web site: [www.childrendefense.org](http://www.childrendefense.org)

National Center for Children in Poverty.

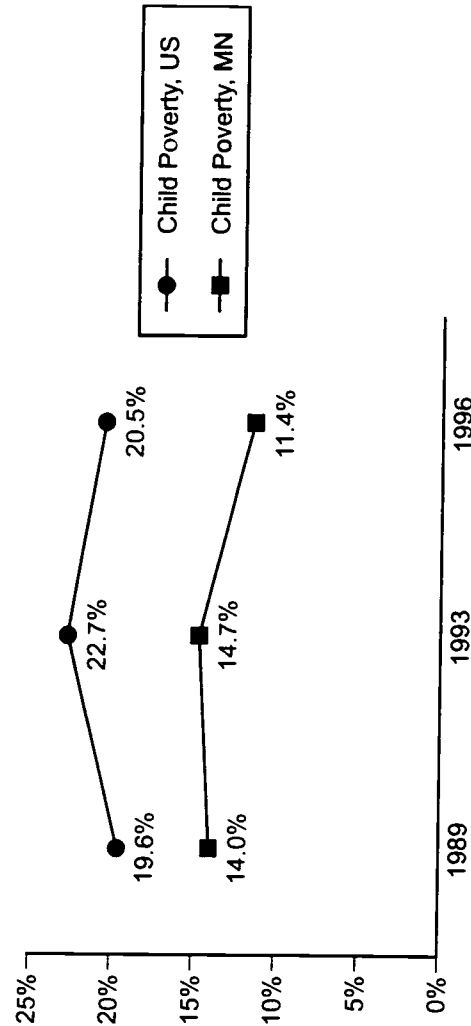
Identifies and promotes strategies to reduce the number of poor children. (212) 304-7100. Web site:

<http://www.cpmcnet.columbia.edu/dept/hccp/>



Area	1989		1993		1996	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
All people in poverty, Minnesota	414,214	9.6%	491,839	10.8%	401,523	8.6%
All people in poverty, USA	31,528,020	12.8%	39,264,811	15.1%	36,529,141	13.7%
Children in poverty, Minnesota	165,531	14% ±1.2	185,224	14.7% ±1.7	144,654	11.4% ±1
Children in poverty, USA	12,589,930	19.6%	15,727,492	22.7%	14,463,480	20.5%
Children under five in poverty, Minnesota	59,463	17.1% ±2.6	60,598	18% ±2.1	42,488	13% ±1.7
Children under five in poverty, USA	4,083,407	21.7% ±1.5	5,367,476	26.5% ±1.5	4,582,979	23.4% ±1.5

**Child Poverty Rates, 1989-1996**



**US Department of Health and Human Services Poverty Guidelines, 2000**

Size of Family Unit      48 Contiguous States and D.C.

1	\$ 8,350
2	11,250
3	14,150
4	17,050
5	19,950
6	22,850

For each additional person, add \$2,900

SOURCE: *Federal Register*, Vol. 65, No. 31, February 15, 2000, pp. 7555-7557

# Children Receiving Free or Reduced-Price School Lunch

## What Does This Indicator Measure?

- How many school-age children live in low-income families (below 185% of the poverty line), as measured by their receipt of free or reduced-price school lunches.

## Why Is It Important?

Many families who are technically above the federal poverty line are still struggling to meet basic needs. Since most eligible children participate in the free/reduced-price school lunch program, this indicator helps measure the number of these children. This indicator is also available at a school district level, which provides even better local-level information on family incomes.

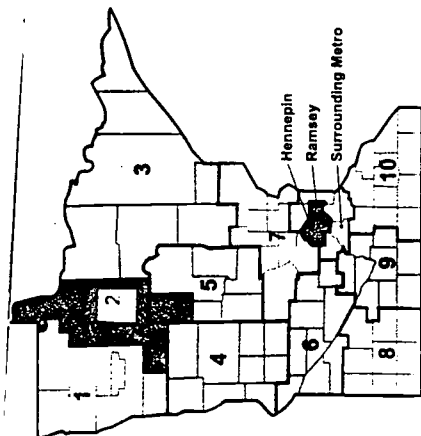
School meals themselves are also important by providing educational and nutritional benefits to students. School lunches provide 1/3 to 1/2 of the recommended daily allowances for key nutrients. Children who eat school meals perform better on standardized achievement tests and are late and absent from school less often than children who do not participate in the programs.

## How Can We Improve?

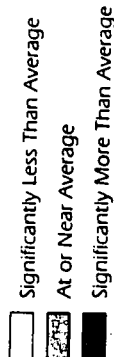
Programs to support the self-sufficiency of low-income, working families are critical, including: the Earned Income Tax Credit and Minnesota Family Credits, which increase the annual income for low-wage bread winners; the Basic Sliding Fee child care program, which allows parents to work by assisting with child care expenses; and Minnesota Care, which helps families obtain health care for their children.

## Minnesota Trends

Statewide, free/reduced-price school lunch participation has been relatively steady over the decade. In the 1998-1999 school year, about 26% of students participated in the program, meaning that at least one in four Minnesota students comes from a low-income family. Twenty percent received free lunch, meaning that their families were below 135% of the poverty level. The percentage of students in the program reflects differing poverty rates between regions of the state. The highest rates were over 50% in Region 2, and more than 40% in Region 5 and Ramsey County. The lowest rates were 13% in the surrounding metro area counties. Region 2, Hennepin and Ramsey counties all saw increases since 1991-1992.



**Percent of Children Receiving Free or Reduced-Price School Lunch in Minnesota, Compared to Average**



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## For More Information

*State of the States: A profile of food and nutrition programs across the nation 1998.* Web site: [www.frac.org/html/publications/pub\\_order.html](http://www.frac.org/html/publications/pub_order.html)

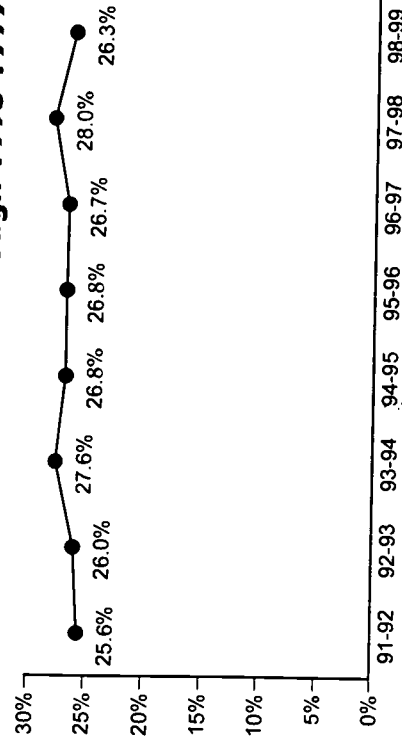
*A Hand Up: How State Earned Income Tax Credits Help Working Families Escape Poverty, 1999.* Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. (202) 408-1080. Web site: <http://www.cbpp.org>

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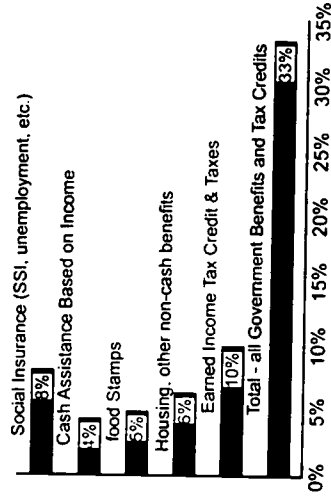
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Area	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	91-99								
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	% change								
REGION 1	6,778	36.1%	6,932	36.5%	6,969	37.1%	6,812	36.0%	6,718	35.8%	6,581	35.2%	6,421	35.5%	6,127	34.8%	-3.8%
REGION 2	6,264	41.6%	6,717	43.4%	7,309	46.6%	7,531	46.8%	7,635	47.6%	7,646	47.8%	7,863	49.4%	7,640	50.4%	21.2%
REGION 3	16,211	30.0%	16,142	29.9%	17,038	30.6%	16,407	29.6%	16,291	29.0%	16,105	29.0%	16,833	31.5%	15,586	28.9%	-3.7%
REGION 4	11,444	31.3%	12,030	32.6%	12,281	32.9%	12,113	32.6%	11,882	31.3%	11,638	30.6%	11,430	30.6%	10,996	30.1%	-3.8%
REGION 5	12,292	43.0%	12,318	42.1%	12,782	43.1%	12,822	42.7%	13,025	42.6%	13,511	43.3%	13,801	44.4%	11,938	40.9%	-5.0%
REGION 6	9,291	29.4%	9,678	29.5%	10,174	30.5%	9,907	30.2%	9,717	30.2%	9,486	29.3%	9,834	30.1%	9,246	28.9%	-1.5%
REGION 7	19,339	24.3%	20,226	24.6%	20,878	24.7%	21,589	24.9%	21,063	24.0%	20,954	23.5%	21,297	23.7%	19,331	21.9%	-9.5%
REGION 8	7,036	29.2%	7,281	29.9%	7,711	31.2%	7,882	31.6%	7,659	30.4%	7,698	30.9%	7,885	31.9%	7,016	31.4%	7.4%
REGION 9	9,768	24.6%	10,480	25.6%	11,220	26.7%	11,184	26.2%	11,164	26.1%	11,155	26.1%	10,839	25.7%	9,892	26.3%	6.9%
REGION 10	16,216	20.7%	16,863	21.4%	17,100	21.7%	17,622	22.2%	17,350	21.6%	18,034	22.4%	18,051	22.4%	16,993	21.8%	5.3%
Hennepin	36,828	27.0%	39,234	28.3%	48,220	33.4%	42,535	29.2%	41,745	28.2%	43,778	28.2%	49,154	31.0%	47,952	30.5%	12.7%
Ramsey	26,707	35.7%	25,950	33.0%	28,421	35.3%	30,612	36.7%	32,638	40.3%	35,467	40.3%	37,802	45.0%	35,408	40.9%	14.4%
Surr. Metro	20,233	12.9%	22,530	13.9%	24,577	14.5%	25,540	14.5%	27,006	15.0%	27,006	14.5%	27,513	14.4%	24,813	12.9%	-0.3%
STATE	198,407	25.6%	206,381	26.0%	224,860	27.6%	222,431	26.8%	223,893	26.8%	229,059	26.7%	238,723	28.0%	222,938	26.3%	2.6%

### Percentage of Children Receiving Free/Reduced-Price School Lunch, 1991-1992 through 1998-1999



### Children Lifted Out of Poverty by Government Benefits, 1998



Source: Center on Budget & Policy Priorities, from Current Population Survey

# Children Receiving Food Stamps

## What Does This Indicator Measure?

- The number of children receiving food stamps in July of each year. Family income must be less than 135% of the poverty line, along with certain other asset limitations.

## Why Is It Important?

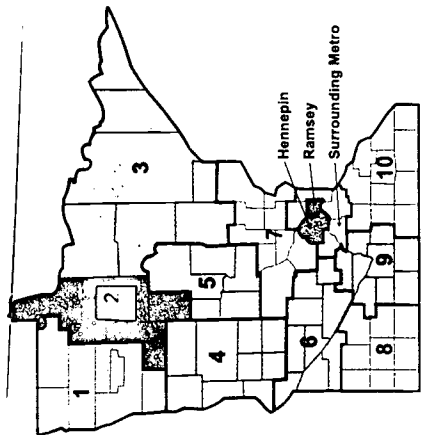
Food stamps prevent hunger and malnutrition by providing assistance with food expenses to low-income families. Food stamps are often used by working families to supplement their low wages. In spite of the food stamp program, hunger and food insecurity persists. New statistics from the US Department of Agriculture show that in 1997, 4.2% of children lived in households experiencing food insecurity with hunger, and 11% of children lived in households that were food insecure but did not report actual hunger.

## How Can We Improve?

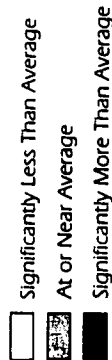
Food stamps is a federal program whose participation is limited only by income eligibility. However, many families who are eligible for food stamps do not receive them. Outreach programs to low-income families through schools and work sites could improve access to this program and help ensure that all children receive adequate nutrition.

## Minnesota Trends

About one in twelve Minnesota children received food stamps in 1998. Minnesota has seen a modest increase in the number of children receiving food stamps throughout the 1990's. Most regions have had increases of various sizes. Region 1 in northwestern Minnesota more than doubled the number of children in the program. The suburban metro area had the lowest rate of food stamp use, and also saw a 25% decline between 1991 and 1998.



Percent of Children Receiving Food Stamps  
in Minnesota, Compared to Average



## For More Information

*The Food Research and Action Center. The FORK Act (Food Stamp Outreach and Research for Kids Act) of 1999. Introduced October 27, 1999. (202) 986-2200. Web site: <http://www.frac.org>*  
*MN Food Share. This web site offers a variety of reports and information regarding food stamps. (612) 721-8687, x327. Web site: <http://www.gmcc.org/MFS>*

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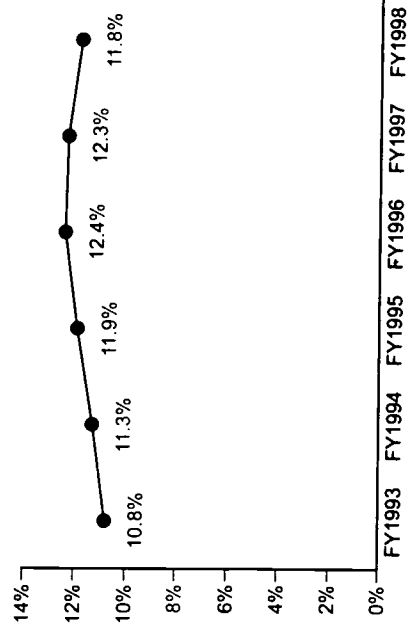
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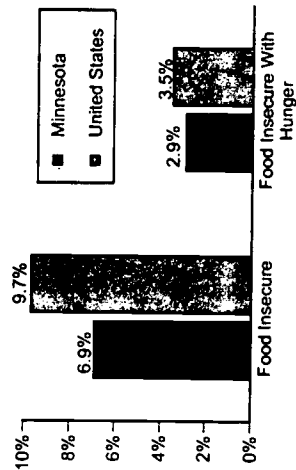


Area	1993		1994		1995		1996		1997		1998		91-98	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	% change	
REGION 1	2,153	8.2%	2,397	9.1%	2,831	11.1%	3,710	14.6%	4,113	16.4%	4,397	18.0%	120%	
REGION 2	4,872	23.8%	4,784	23.0%	4,545	21.5%	4,680	22.0%	4,644	21.8%	4,826	22.7%	-5%	
REGION 3	8,857	11.1%	9,587	12.0%	9,899	12.5%	10,875	13.7%	11,618	14.8%	12,429	16.2%	46%	
REGION 4	7,656	14.2%	7,780	14.3%	7,805	14.5%	7,542	14.0%	6,917	12.9%	6,637	12.2%	-14%	
REGION 5	5,142	13.0%	5,556	13.9%	5,452	13.5%	5,378	13.2%	5,158	12.7%	5,036	12.5%	-4%	
REGION 6	3,808	8.2%	3,728	8.0%	4,047	8.9%	4,755	10.5%	5,437	12.1%	5,828	13.1%	61%	
REGION 7	7,255	6.1%	8,232	6.7%	8,371	6.7%	9,364	7.4%	9,784	7.6%	9,899	7.5%	24%	
REGION 8	2,162	6.4%	2,238	6.6%	2,332	7.0%	2,736	8.3%	2,893	8.9%	3,049	9.7%	52%	
REGION 9	4,851	8.3%	4,726	8.0%	4,797	8.3%	5,021	8.7%	4,650	8.1%	4,650	8.0%	-3%	
REGION 10	7,269	6.1%	8,101	6.8%	9,029	7.7%	10,292	8.8%	10,443	8.9%	10,326	8.7%	43%	
Hennepin	39,917	15.9%	43,647	17.3%	45,296	18.4%	45,701	18.6%	45,363	18.5%	38,299	15.5%	-3%	
Ramsey	24,395	19.0%	26,509	20.5%	28,522	23.4%	29,742	24.5%	30,019	24.7%	30,096	24.7%	30%	
Surr. metro	15,281	5.8%	14,913	5.5%	14,873	5.5%	14,415	5.2%	12,621	4.4%	12,319	4.4%	-25%	
STATE	133,618	10.8%	142,198	11.3%	147,799	11.9%	154,211	12.4%	153,660	12.3%	147,791	11.8%	10%	

### Percentage of Children Receiving Food Stamps



### Percentage of Households Experiencing Food Insecurity or Hunger, 1996-98



Sources: US Department of Agriculture, 1999. Food insecurity is defined as limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods.

# KIDS COUNT In Action

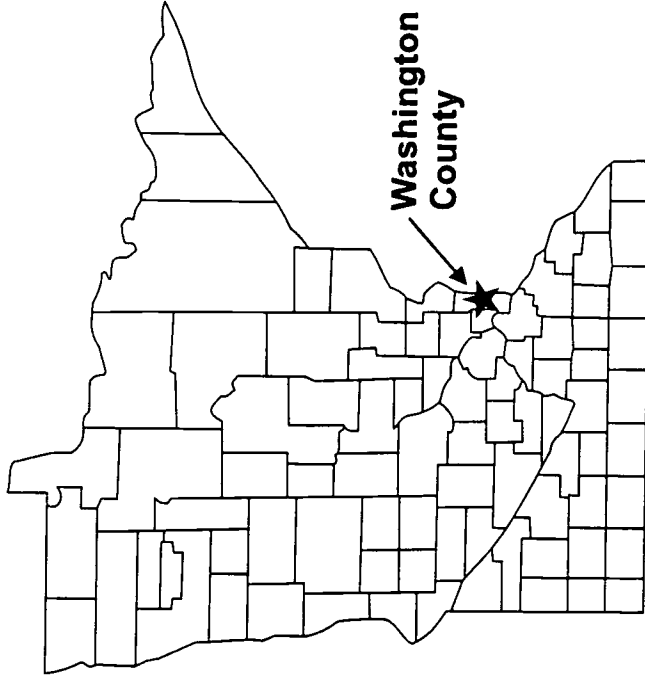
KIDS COUNT data is being used to help assess the current and future needs of children and families in Washington County.

A community needs assessment will be conducted by thirty-four social service agencies and the United Way over the next two years to develop a better knowledge of needs that are not currently being met through existing programs. By using the 1999 KIDS COUNT data book, the agencies found that children's poverty levels stayed steady through the mid-1990's in their county. They also found that more poor children lived in suburbs and rural Minnesota than in the urban areas.

Arba-Della Beck of Family Service St. Croix comments on the importance of a community needs assessment. "We want to know what is happening and not happening for families. What's missing in families?" She also notes that two of the most significant changes in family life are the expanded role of women in public and private enterprises, and the mobility of families, which has significantly reduced the role of the extended family.

"The heart of what happens to kids is what happens to families."

(Information from "Pillars Club Meets at Brandt's," by Sheryl E-Marshall, *Stillwater Gazette*, July 30, 1999, and interview with Arba-Della Beck.)





# Starting Out



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# Children Born to Teenage Mothers

## What Does This Indicator Measure?

- The number of children born to mothers under eighteen years of age, and the three-year rate for mothers ages 15-17. The rate of these births is given as a three-year average for ages 15-17 in order to increase accuracy for smaller regions and counties.

## Why Is It Important?

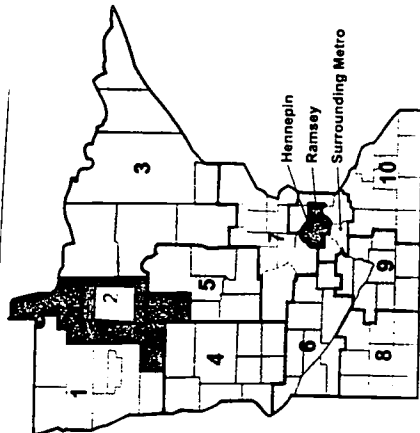
Teen births present difficulties both for the young mothers and for their children. Young mothers are less likely to complete high school and are less able to support their families than older mothers. Most young fathers are also ill-equipped to take on the responsibilities of fathering due to lack of education and job skills, leading to low wages. Children born to teen mothers are more likely to have increased health, academic and social problems as they grow up.

## How Can We Improve?

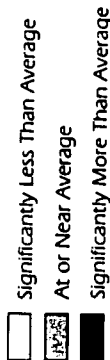
Successful education programs: (1) focus clearly on reducing sexual behaviors that lead to unintended pregnancy; (2) use behavioral goals, teaching methods, and materials that are appropriate to the age, sexual experience, and culture of the students; (3) use proven effective approaches and teaching methods; (4) include activities that address social and peer pressures about sexual activity; (5) and utilize trained teachers and/or peers.

## Minnesota Trends

There were 1,940 children born to teen mothers in 1998. The most recent Minnesota three-year teen birth rate of 17.7 per one thousand 15-17 year olds showed a 20% decline from the 1993-95 rate. Almost every region in the state showed declines, ranging from 4% to 37%. The highest teen birth rates were in Hennepin and Ramsey counties and in Region 2. The lowest birth rates were in the surrounding suburban counties.



Percent of Children Born to Teenage Mothers in Minnesota, Compared to Average



## For More Information

MN Organization on Adolescent Pregnancy, Prevention and Parenting. (651) 644-1417. Web site: [www.cyfc.umn.edu/moappp](http://www.cyfc.umn.edu/moappp)

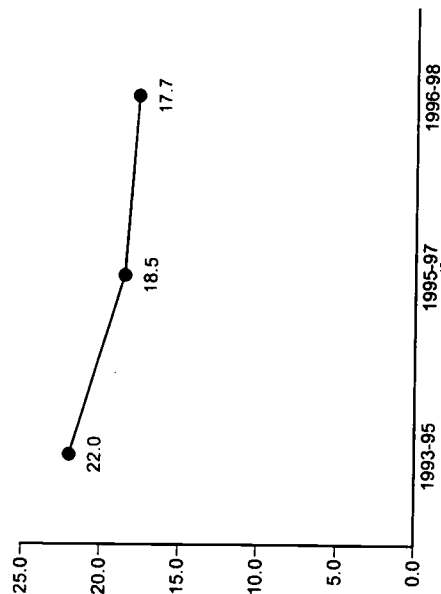
The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. (202) 261-5655. Web site: [www.teenpregnancy.org](http://www.teenpregnancy.org)

National Teen Pregnancy Prevention Research Center. (612) 626-2820. Web site: [www.peds.umn.edu](http://www.peds.umn.edu)

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Area	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	93-95 rate/1000	95-97 rate/1000	96-98 rate/1000	% change, 93-95 to 96-98 rate
REGION 1	27	35	29	41	39	37	24	37	16.9	15.2	13.6	-19%
REGION 2	35	51	36	48	44	47	59	56	23.5	24.7	25.9	10%
REGION 3	110	130	125	115	112	111	126	129	16.9	15.3	15.4	-9%
REGION 4	68	72	82	72	4	2	70	82	17.7	14.7	15.5	-13%
REGION 5	63	73	70	87	72	55	63	58	24.7	17.2	15.5	-37%
REGION 6	48	60	63	56	66	60	65	77	16.8	15.8	16.1	-4%
REGION 7	118	130	137	157	143	168	146	137	16.1	13.7	12.9	-19%
REGION 8	27	46	46	40	46	46	53	35	14.6	15.2	14.1	-3%
REGION 9	65	49	73	68	71	85	79	83	16.2	15.7	16.3	1%
REGION 10	154	121	149	152	166	127	156	157	16.8	14.4	13.9	-18%
Hennepin	557	577	558	555	568	534	546	474	31.5	26.7	24.3	-23%
Ramsey	320	339	350	320	326	372	348	363	38.4	35.1	35.4	-8%
Surr. Metro	248	228	240	288	300	304	276	252	14.1	12.4	11.2	-21%
State	1840	1911	1958	1999	2023	2019	2011	1,940	22.0	18.5	17.7	-20%

**Teen Birth Rate, age 15-17, Three-Year Averages**



**Statewide Statistics: Children Born to Teenage Mothers**

All Children	African-American	American Indian	Asian	White	Hispanic
1991	1,840	322	132	164	103
1992	1,911	389	122	105	121
1993	1,958	357	137	139	143
1994	1,999	361	157	108	139
1995	2,033	369	128	154	147
1996	2,017	325	106	174	192
1997	2,011	344	125	199	183
1998	1,940	353	146	233	221

# Children Born at Low Birth Weight

## What Does This Indicator Measure?

- Infants born weighing less than 2500 grams (5.5 pounds), including those born prematurely (before 37 weeks) and those born at full term but underweight.

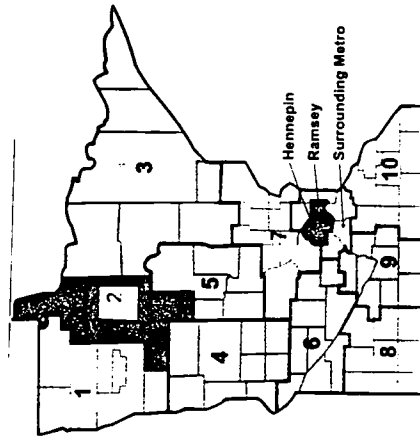
## Why Is It Important?

As a group, infants born at low birth weight have higher rates of health problems than other children. By school age, children born at low birth weight are more likely to have mild learning disabilities, attention disorders, developmental impairments, and breathing problems.

Measuring the number of children born at low birth weight is also a good indicator of the overall level of prenatal care and maternal health. The three major risk factors for low birth weight are cigarette smoking during pregnancy, low maternal weight gain, and low pre-pregnancy weight. Other risks include overall maternal health, fetal infection, genetic make-up, and other health problems. Also, multiple births (twins, triplets, etc.) are more likely to be born at low birth weight.

## How Can We Improve?

The three most effective prenatal intervention efforts identified by researchers are reducing smoking by pregnant women, improving nutrition for pregnant women, and providing better prenatal care. Consuming adequate amounts of folic acid throughout pregnancy may also reduce the risk of having a pre-term and low birth weight baby.



Percent of Children Born at Low Birth Weight in Minnesota, Compared to Average

- Significantly Less Than Average
- At or Near Average
- Significantly More Than Average

49

## For More Information

**March of Dimes.** (612) 835-3035. The mission of the March of Dimes is to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects and infant mortality. Web Site: <http://www.modimes.org>

**Healthy Start.** (703)824-7802. The Healthy Start Initiative is funded by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Established in 1991 as a demonstration program in communities with extremely high rates of infant mortality, the Initiative was founded on the premise that the communities themselves could best develop the strategies necessary to attack the causes of infant mortality and low birth weight, especially among high-risk populations. Web Site: <http://www.HealthyStart.net>

pregnancy may also reduce the risk

## Minnesota Trends

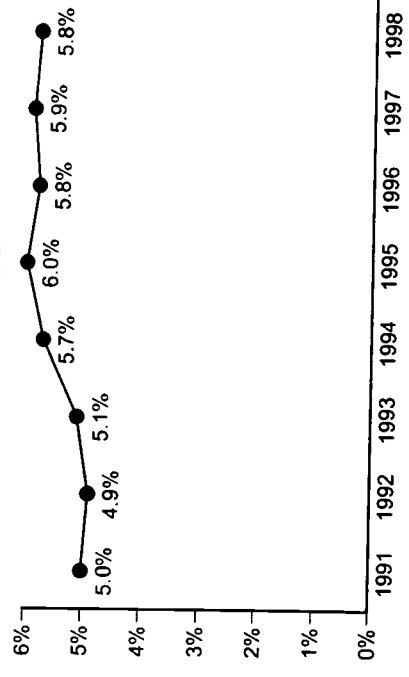
After an increase in the early 1990's, the percentage of children born at low birth weight in Minnesota has remained steady at around 5.8%. Low birth weight babies are more frequent in Region 10 and in Hennepin and Ramsey counties. Almost every region of the state showed an increase from 1991 to 1998.

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Area	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	91-98
	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	% change
REGION 1	58	56	39	43	61	56	64	63	21%
REGION 2	42	44	56	52	52	48	58	36	-5%
REGION 3	165	165	169	170	185	142	176	187	20%
REGION 4	119	110	116	89	116	119	134	123	7%
REGION 5	87	71	94	87	78	88	91	94	15%
REGION 6	59	77	75	94	115	83	114	72	29%
REGION 7	276	236	278	307	285	319	331	323	7%
REGION 8	44	63	73	67	68	79	66	71	74%
REGION 9	137	111	107	137	144	134	136	148	17%
REGION 10	277	325	314	294	340	319	336	357	39%
Hennepin	967	915	911	1,044	986	1,045	1,012	1,042	15%
Ramsey	485	389	428	500	491	487	500	488	11%
Surr. Metro	623	648	660	762	787	796	783	802	20%
STATE	3,339	3,211	3,320	3,646	3,709	3,715	3,801	3,806	17%

**Percentage of Children Born at Low Birth Weight, 1991-1998**



**Statewide Statistics: Children Born With Low Birth Weight (Less Than 2500 grams)\***

	All Children			African-American		American Indian		Asian		White		Hispanic	
1991	3,339	5%	406	12%	93	6%	138	6%	2,692	5%	79	6%	
1992	3,211	5%	366	10%	88	6%	131	5%	2,618	5%	73	5%	
1993	3,320	5%	348	10%	100	7%	174	7%	2,675	5%	85	5%	
1994	3,646	6%	429	12%	94	7%	192	7%	2,893	5%	107	6%	
1995	3,709	6%	405	11%	105	8%	181	6%	2,960	5%	129	7%	
1996	3,715	6%	365	12%	63	6%	175	7%	2,936	5%	138	6%	
1997	3,801	6%	366	11%	80	7%	189	7%	3,110	6%	169	7%	
1998	3,806	6%	468	10%	87	6%	221	7%	2,993	5%			

\*As a percent of all births



# Children Transferring Schools

## What Does This Indicator Measure?

- How many transfers occurred between public schools within a district or between schools in different districts during the school year, compared to the total school enrollment. Students who transferred more than once are counted each time they transfer schools.

## Why Is It Important?

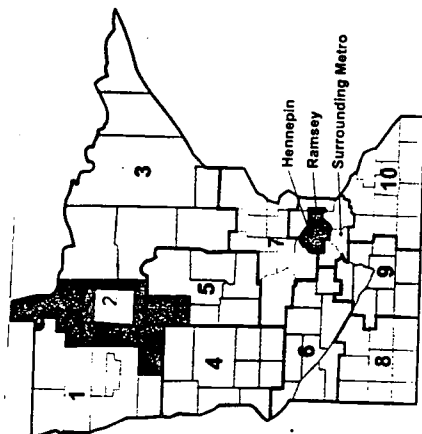
Students who move often have lower attendance rates. Attendance levels are important to achievement. Studies have found that average reading scores for students who moved three or more times were half those of students who did not move. Students who, on average, were absent 20 percent of the time scored 20 points lower than students who attended school nearly every day.

## How Can We Improve?

Safe, affordable, stable housing is key to reducing frequent family moves. Additional efforts should be made to keep children in the same school when possible. Efforts to standardize curriculum across schools can also help ease transitions for students.

## Minnesota Trends

There was about one transfer for every seven children during the 1997-98 school year. The percentage of transfers in all Minnesota schools has increased steadily by almost 11% since 1992-93. Transfers increased in almost every region. Region 2 and Region 9 saw a 40% increase in the six years that data has been available. Schools in the western Minnesota regions tended to have the most stable enrollment. The urban counties of Hennepin and Ramsey and northern Minnesota's Region 2 had the highest percentage of transfers in the 1997-98 school year.



Percent of Children Transferring Schools in Minnesota, Compared to Average

- ☐ Significantly Less Than Average
- ☒ At or Near Average
- ☒ Significantly More Than Average

## For More Information

*Kids Mobility Project Report, Family Housing Fund, Hennepin County, Minneapolis Public Schools and University of Minnesota, 1995. Web site: <http://www.flfund.org/Research/kids.htm>*

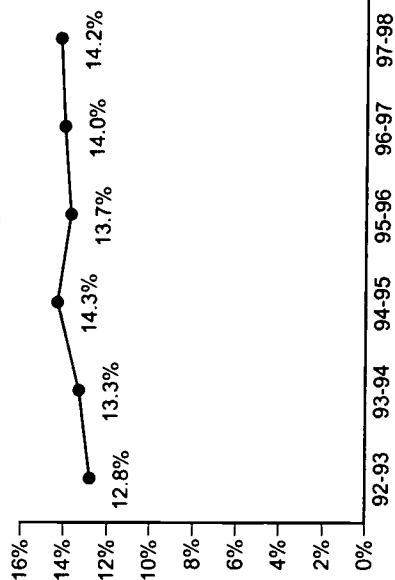
**Minnesota Housing Partnership.**  
Information on housing issues and activities in Minnesota. (612) 874-0112.  
Web site: <http://www.mhponline.org>

**Please Note:** As the databook went to press, the Department of Children, Families and Learning revised their estimation method for student transfers to avoid counting as transfers students who are taking special summer school programs. For new county level numbers, please see the errata sheet enclosed in the front of this publication.



Area	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	92-98
	#	#	#	#	#	#	% change
REGION 1	1,757	1,871	2,228	2,198	3,980	2,320	39%
REGION 2	2,418	2,573	2,852	2,892	3,585	3,586	40%
REGION 3	6,985	7,691	7,986	7,966	8,176	7,675	13%
REGION 4	3,838	4,316	4,552	4,488	4,729	4,501	16%
REGION 5	3,381	3,492	3,636	3,810	3,816	3,873	10%
REGION 6	3,252	3,444	3,570	3,613	3,683	3,696	15%
REGION 7	7,900	8,567	9,424	9,200	8,872	9,274	8%
REGION 8	2,116	2,016	2,027	2,462	2,559	2,595	23%
REGION 9	3,154	3,237	3,871	3,990	4,086	4,551	40%
REGION 10	7,272	7,571	8,090	8,701	8,791	8,968	21%
Hennepin	23,929	23,389	26,003	25,348	26,012	27,323	4%
Ramsey	12,989	13,850	17,135	15,167	16,335	17,164	17%
Surr Metro	20,691	22,236	22,734	22,760	22,511	23,426	-1%
STATE	99,682	105,587	115,437	111,276	116,936	118,989	11%

**Transfers as a Percentage of Total Enrollment,  
1992-93 through 1998-99**





# KIDS COUNT In Action

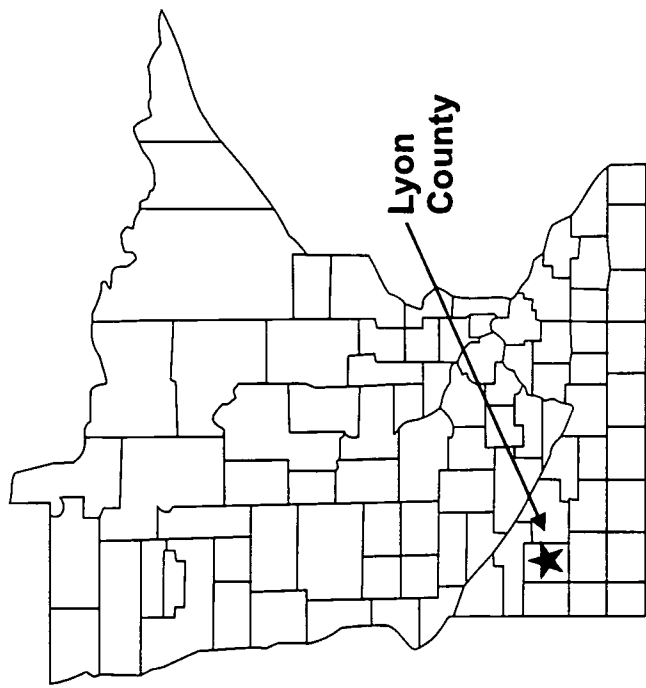
Kids in Lyon County in Southwestern Minnesota are seeing education in a brighter light with the implementation of the Area Life Skills Training Center.

Using information from Minnesota KIDS COUNT data books, one of the trends that educators saw in Lyon County was an increase in the school dropout rate. Harry Weilage from the Area Life Skills Center says that this new program is in its second year and they have already seen great successes in keeping kids in school.

The Center offers a youth-focused program for junior and senior high students. Teachers are spending more time with the individual student and they are seeing them flourish because of this one-on-one contact. The program also offers community work sites to the students. This gives them another opportunity for community involvement.

There has been a decrease in the dropout rate in Lyon County since the implementation of this program. Teachers have also noticed an increase in leadership among participating students. The kids involved in the program are seeing the value in it and report that they want to see their younger brothers and sisters in the program some day.

(Information from "They're Making the Grade" by Cindy Votruba, *The Independent*, Marshall, MN, September 10, 1999, and an interview with Harry Weilage.)



# Signs of Trouble



59

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# Children Dropping Out of School

## What Does This Indicator Measure?

- The dropout rate is how many children drop out of school in ninth, tenth, eleventh or twelfth grades each year, compared to the total enrollment of children in grades seven through twelve. The completion rate is the number of students from a particular class (i.e. the Class of 1998) who graduate on time. Students who do not graduate on time either dropped out sometime between ninth and twelfth grades, or continue on in high school.

## Why Is It Important?

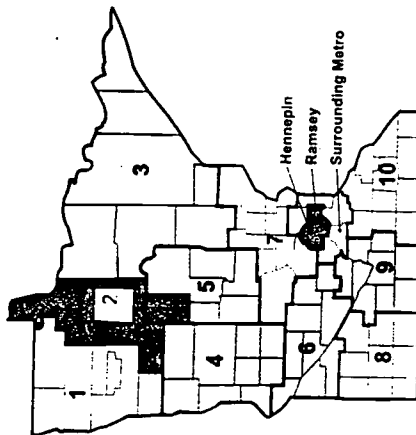
Not graduating from high school is associated with many future problems. Measuring the on-time graduation rate also helps measure the effectiveness of schools in educating students. Students who drop out of school are three times as likely to slip into poverty in adulthood as are those who finish high school. Job prospects are minimal for young and unskilled workers, and the earnings of high school dropouts are significantly lower than for those who complete more education.

## How Can We Improve?

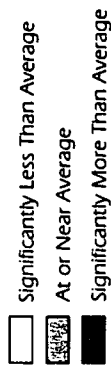
There is a high correlation between truancy and dropping out of school. Studies on truancy rates show that children at risk of dropping out can be detected as early as third grade. Early intervention with students and families can help break the pattern of truancy and ensure that children will complete high school.

## Minnesota Trends

Single-year dropout rates have decreased slightly in the last two years, to 3.8% of Minnesota students. Although Hispanic, African-American and American Indian students have higher dropout rates than white students, these rates have also decreased somewhat. Completion studies are only available for three years, so trends are difficult to determine at this time. In 1998, 78% of Minnesota seniors graduated on time. Eleven percent dropped out and 11% continued on in high school. While 82% of white students graduated on time, that rate dropped to 68% for Asian, 49% for Hispanic, 43% for Indian, and 36% for African-American students.



Percent of Children Dropping Out of School  
in Minnesota, Compared to Average



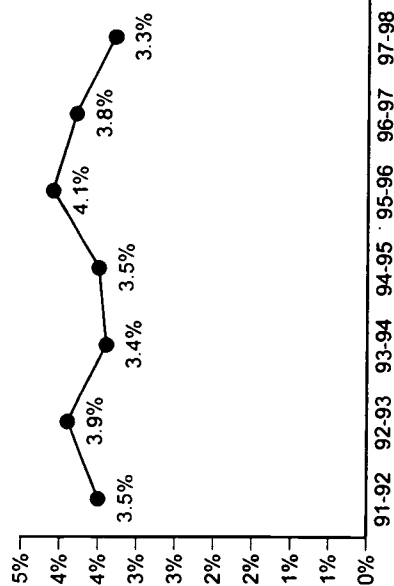
## For More Information

The Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning. Available completion studies for Minnesota students. Web site: <http://cfl.state.mn.us/TECH/compstudy.html>  
ERIC Clearinghouse on Assessment and Evaluation. 1-800-464-3742. Has many articles on school success, truancy, testing and other educational topics. Web site: <http://ericae.net>

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Area	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	91-92 to 97-98
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	% change
REGION 1	115	1.3%	112	1.3%	108	1.3%	108	1.2%
REGION 2	149	2.4%	214	3.2%	292	4.1%	284	3.7%
REGION 3	994	3.7%	755	2.8%	786	2.9%	875	3.2%
REGION 4	251	1.6%	232	1.4%	426	2.4%	506	2.7%
REGION 5	374	2.9%	430	3.2%	461	3.2%	486	3.3%
REGION 6	319	2.2%	460	3.0%	465	3.0%	421	2.6%
REGION 7	749	2.2%	765	2.1%	819	2.1%	969	2.3%
REGION 8	144	1.3%	137	1.3%	190	1.7%	179	1.5%
REGION 9	286	1.7%	310	1.8%	390	2.0%	415	2.1%
REGION 10	836	2.5%	910	2.7%	938	2.7%	1,033	2.8%
Hennepin	3,364	6.0%	4,086	7.1%	3,607	5.8%	4,749	7.5%
Ramsey	1,844	6.4%	2,464	8.0%	2,139	6.5%	2,337	6.5%
Surr. Metro	2,066	3.1%	2,127	3.0%	2,309	3.0%	2,709	3.2%
STATE	11,491	3.5%	13,640	3.9%	12,930	3.5%	14,989	3.8%
					15,701	4.1%	13,180	3.3%

**Percentage of Students Dropping Out of School,  
1991-92 to 1997-98**



**Children Dropping Out of School**

	All Children	African-American	American Indian	Asian	White	Hispanic
1991	3,339	5%	406	12%	93	6%
1991-92	11,491	4%	1,467	14%	669	13%
1992-93	13,640	4%	1,870	16%	844	16%
1993-94	12,387	3%	1,812	14%	787	13%
1994-95	12,930	4%	1,963	14%	920	15%
1995-96	15,701	4%	2,766	18%	1,049	16%
1996-97	14,989	4%	2,560	15%	1,040	15%
1997-98	13,180	3%	2,071	11%	859	12%
					699	4%
					743	9%
					8,790	3%

# Children Arrested for Serious Crime

## What Does This Indicator Measure?

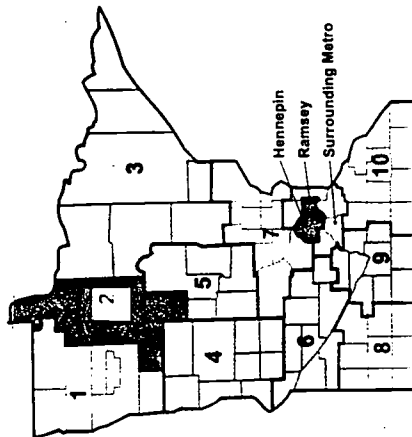
- The number of children arrested for either crimes against people (murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault) or crimes against property (burglary, auto theft, larceny), often known as "Part 1" crimes. The percentage given is the number of child arrests for these crimes compared to the total number of these crimes (i.e. the numbers committed by both adults and children.) These numbers reflect the fact that arrest practices vary between jurisdictions.

## Why Is It Important?

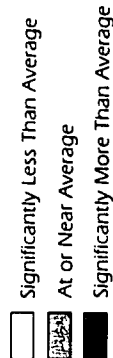
Crime has a negative effect on victims, perpetrators, and the community as a whole. Most children who commit crimes have other problems in their lives, including earlier victimization as young children, learning disabilities, substance abuse, family dysfunction, poor neighborhoods and poverty.

## How Can We Improve?

"Get tough" approaches to youth crime are often popular with politicians and the public, but do not have research backing to show effectiveness. The roots of criminal behavior are early in children's lives and are affected by their home, school and community environments. Prevention focused on everything from meaningful after-school and evening activities for adolescents, to intervention in the families of young children, can help prevent and reduce crime. Effective interventions with young adolescents committing more minor offenses may help to prevent later, more serious crimes.



Percent of Children Arrested for Serious Crime in Minnesota, Compared to Average



## For More Information

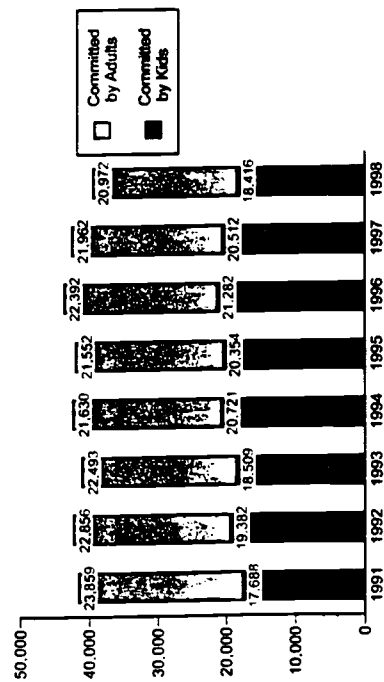
Partnerships Against Violence Network. A virtual library of information about violence and youth at risk, representing data from seven different Federal agencies. Web site: <http://www.pavnnet.org>  
National Children's Defense Fund. A Voice for Children: *Getting Our Priorities Straight*. This article looks at the impact that education and media have on our children when it comes to averting or encouraging violent behavior. Web site: <http://www.childrendefense.org/voice.html>

## Minnesota Trends

There were 18,416 arrests of children for serious crimes in 1998. Children comprised about the same proportion of arrests for serious crimes (Part 1 crimes) as earlier in the decade (47%). However, the overall number of arrests of children for serious crimes declined from 1996 through 1998, after increasing from 1991 through 1995. Of all arrests of children for serious crimes, one in nine were for violent crimes. Sixty-eight percent of arrests of children for serious crimes were for larceny.

	1991		1992		1993		1994		1995		1996		1997		1998		91-98	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	% change	
REGION 1	164	31.8%	151	37.3%	16	16.8%	253	42.3%	201	43.4%	242	47.1%	227	50.7%	192	44.0%	38%	
REGION 2	360	39.7%	394	43.4%	16	14.0%	275	34.2%	329	42.3%	322	45.1%	359	45.0%	244	35.1%	-12%	
REGION 3	1,110	46.6%	1,061	47.2%	110	32.1%	1,010	42.9%	1,216	49.0%	1,134	46.5%	1,094	45.0%	1,102	44.8%	-4%	
REGION 4	658	39.8%	780	44.2%	26	14.1%	826	52.9%	720	50.0%	592	42.2%	706	47.0%	554	43.4%	9%	
REGION 5	317	33.8%	309	34.0%	13	8.8%	312	39.0%	329	37.9%	401	44.0%	312	33.8%	339	38.1%	13%	
REGION 6	530	49.4%	574	51.9%	37	27.4%	582	55.9%	644	58.0%	833	59.8%	679	55.2%	549	49.0%	-1%	
REGION 7	1,188	39.4%	1,573	46.8%	90	26.3%	1,515	50.1%	1,532	49.9%	1,560	49.7%	1,692	50.4%	1,458	47.4%	20%	
REGION 8	225	41.3%	394	53.0%	26	29.2%	373	58.2%	239	49.9%	374	52.1%	380	54.4%	268	46.9%	14%	
REGION 9	609	40.3%	641	42.4%	27	20.6%	716	50.4%	698	50.7%	819	52.1%	742	48.1%	626	49.8%	24%	
REGION 10	1,415	46.4%	1,711	52.6%	87	23.5%	1,962	57.9%	1,803	51.5%	1,997	55.2%	1,656	50.7%	1,542	48.1%	4%	
Hennepin	4,691	37.9%	4,868	38.7%	640	22.9%	5,186	40.4%	5,374	41.6%	5,436	41.1%	5,490	42.2%	5,165	42.2%	11%	
Ramsey	2,767	45.5%	2,869	50.9%	394	31.6%	3,472	55.4%	3,385	55.0%	3,547	54.2%	3,484	57.6%	2,957	55.7%	22%	
Surr. Metro	3,669	48.8%	4,047	52.0%	285	34.3%	4,233	55.6%	3,811	53.2%	4,117	54.5%	3,729	51.5%	3,397	50.1%	3%	
STATE	17,688	42.6%	19,382	45.9%	18,509	45.1%	20,721	48.9%	20,354	48.6%	21,282	48.7%	20,512	48.3%	18,416	46.8%	10%	

### Arrests for Serious Crime, Children and Adults, 1991-1998



### Children Arrested for Serious Crimes\*

(murder, negligent manslaughter, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, property crimes)

	All Children		African-American		American Indian		Asian		Hispanic**		White	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
1991	17,688	43%	2,604	33%	1,010	43%	558	59%	1,849	47%	13,516	44%
1992	19,382	46%	2,815	34%	950	45%	606	61%	1,700	49%	14,959	49%
1993	18,509	44%	2,836	33%	939	43%	717	59%	1,110	35%	14,017	48%
1994	20,721	49%	3,626	38%	914	44%	826	61%	1,601	41%	15,355	52%
1995	20,354	49%	3,541	37%	1,016	46%	894	64%	1,673	42%	14,903	52%
1996	21,282	49%	3,684	36%	946	42%	1,199	64%	1,880	38%	15,453	53%
1997	20,512	48%	3,838	39%	974	43%	1,322	67%	1,915	40%	14,378	51%
1998	18,416	47%	3,577	39%	855	42%	1,151	61%	N/A		12,833	49%

\* as a percent of all arrests for serious crimes \*\* Hispanic may be of any race



# Children Abused and Neglected

## What Does This Indicator Measure?

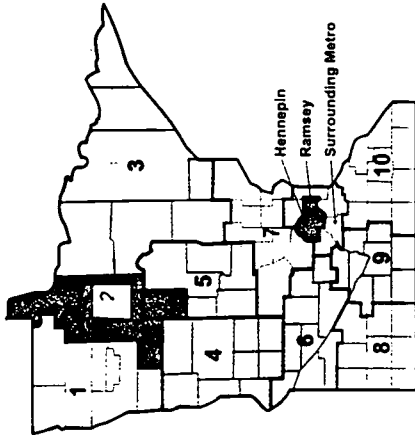
- The number of children reported to county child protective services as abused or neglected, whose situations are investigated and where abuse is found to have occurred. This number does not measure cases that are not reported, cases that are reported but not investigated, nor cases that are investigated but wrongly dismissed.

## Why Is It Important?

Young abused and neglected children are more likely to be socially withdrawn and physically aggressive, and to have learning problems. Neglect is just as damaging to children as outright physical, sexual and emotional abuse. Lack of parental responsiveness to their basic needs, especially for very young children, can thwart normal physical, mental and social development. As adolescents, they are more likely to be involved in crime, become pregnant, perform poorly at school, use drugs and alcohol, or attempt suicide.

## How Can We Improve?

Early intervention to meet the full spectrum of family needs is critical. Parenting education classes may completely meet the needs of some families. Other families may need intensive help with mental health and chemical dependency treatment, or in-home visits and support. Still other families may need the safety and health of their children protected by placement in foster care or with other relatives.



**Percent of Children Abused and Neglected  
in Minnesota, Compared to Average**

- ☐ Significantly Less Than Average
- ☒ At or Near Average
- ☒ Significantly More Than Average

## For More Information

**Minnesota Center Against Violence and Abuse.** (612) 624-0721. An electronic clearinghouse that provides access to the extensive electronic resources on violence and abuse. Web site: <http://www.mincava.umn.edu>

## Child Abuse and Neglect Clearinghouse.

A national resource for information on child welfare issues and the prevention, identification and treatment of child abuse and neglect. Web site: <http://www.cailb.com/nccanrch>

## Minnesota Trends

In 1998, 10,572 children were substantiated as abused or neglected. Neglect cases comprised 70% of substantiated reports. Substantiated reports of child abuse or neglect rates are highest in Hennepin and Ramsey counties, and lowest in northeast Minnesota and the surrounding metro counties. Changes in the rates of substantiated reports varies widely by region, probably due to factors such as publicity about reporting child abuse and neglect, or changes in county policies, rather than large changes in the actual number of children abused and neglected.

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# Children in Out-of-Home Placements

## What Does This Indicator Measure?

- The number of children placed in foster care, emergency foster care, group homes or residential treatment facilities by county social service agencies, compared to the total number of children. Placements from the judicial system are not included in these numbers.

## Why Is It Important?

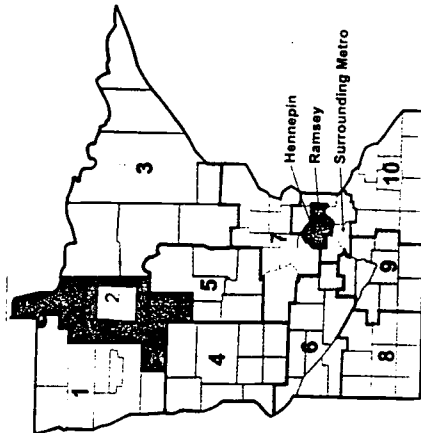
Children in out-of-home placement are usually there because of serious problems in their families. The placement could be because of abuse or neglect by parents or other caregivers. For older children, it could be because of conflict between them and their families. While out-of-home placement is sometimes necessary, it is a costly intervention that has few good outcomes for anyone involved.

## How Can We Improve?

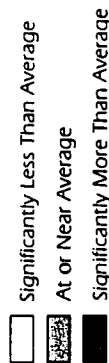
In many cases, families need support, education, mental health services or other community-based resources to help alleviate family difficulties. Investigation and intervention by county child protection agencies could be reserved for more serious cases where children's safety and wellbeing are threatened. In this way, services would better meet the diverse needs of families.

## Minnesota Trends

In 1998, 18,858 children were in out-of-home placements. Because of administrative changes from year to year affecting which children are included in this category, it is difficult to determine accurate trends. (In 1995, Hennepin County removed older adolescents from their counts; in 1997, Ramsey County began counting emergency placements and Hennepin County added some corrections placements.) The general trend for almost all regions, however, is an increase in placements since 1991. African American and American Indian children continue to represent a disproportionate percentage of children in placements, at 22% and 11% of the caseload, respectively.



Percent of Children in Out-of-Home Placements in Minnesota, Compared to Average



## For More Information

Child Welfare League of America.

Resources on policy, practice and data.  
1-800-407-6273. Web site:

<http://www.cwla.org>

Office of the Legislative Auditor. Juvenile Out-of-Home Placement. January 1999.

(651) 297-5353. Web site:  
<http://www.auditor.leg.state.mn.us>

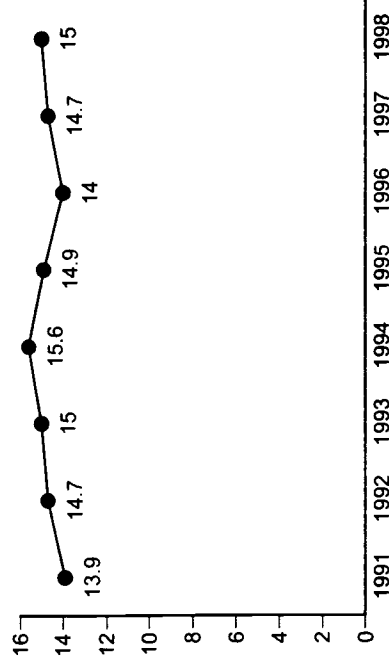
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Area	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	91-98
#	rate/1000	#	rate/1000	#	rate/1000	#	rate/1000	#	% change
REGION 1	248	9.4	253	9.6	286	11.2	358	14.2	33%
REGION 2	394	19.8	418	20.5	456	21.6	433	20.4	10%
REGION 3	1,899	23.9	2,074	26.0	2,104	26.5	1,786	22.7	-2%
REGION 4	650	12.2	669	12.4	739	13.7	768	14.3	21%
REGION 5	544	14.1	600	15.4	632	15.6	649	16.0	16%
REGION 6	416	9.0	444	9.6	462	10.2	414	9.2	20%
REGION 7	1,108	9.7	1,099	9.4	1,557	12.5	1,458	11.3	29%
REGION 8	390	11.6	406	12.0	506	15.2	451	13.9	32%
REGION 9	550	8.0	631	10.8	704	12.2	750	13.1	47%
REGION 10	955	8.2	921	7.7	1,141	9.7	1,211	10.3	42%
Hennepin	5,813	23.6	6,283	25.3	5,457	22.1	5,095	20.8	-12%
Ramsey	1,545	12.2	1,835	14.3	1,710	14.0	2,261	18.6	50%
Surr. Metro	2,265	9.2	2,500	9.8	2,738	10.0	2,748	9.6	8%
STATE	16,777	13.9	18,096	14.8	18,492	15.6	18,381	14.7	8%

**Children in Out-of-Home Placements,  
Rate per 1000, 1991-1998**



**Children in Out-of-Home Placement**

All Children	African-American	American Indian	Asian	White	Hispanic
1991	16,777	3,000	1,865	344	425
1992	18,096	3,459	2,130	304	412
1993	18,673	3,860	2,108	316	562
1994	19,636	4,007	2,176	292	581
1995	18,492	3,685	2,034	308	636
1996	17,508	3,492	1,995	285	644
1997	18,381	3,981	2,030	332	726
1998	18,854	4,107	2,102	408	844

# Children Dying Violently

## What Does This Indicator Measure?

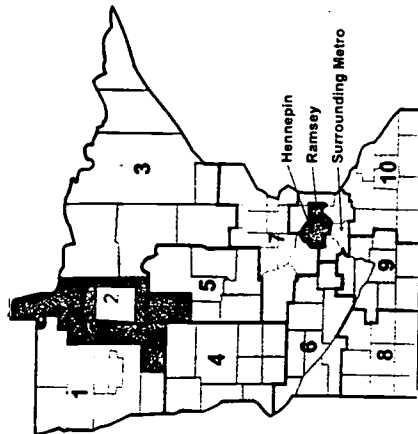
- How many children died each year from murder, suicide, car crashes or other unintentional injuries, compared to the total number of children. This information is collected from death certificates. Some murders and suicides within this category may be counted as unintentional injuries.

## Why Is It Important?

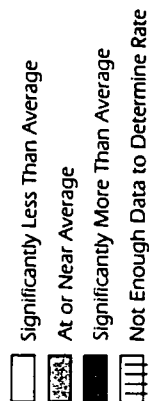
Although the overall number of child deaths each year is relatively small, each child is a unique and precious person who cannot be replaced. Also, for every death due to injury, there are many more serious disabilities, hospitalizations and medical problems. For every completed suicide, there are numerous suicide attempts. For every murder, there are many other cases of assault and abuse. These deaths represent the tip of an iceberg of harm to children.

## How Can We Improve?

Almost every one of these deaths is preventable. Proper safety seats for children and reducing drunk driving by teenagers would greatly reduce the number of auto-related fatalities. Injuries from falls, drowning and poisoning could often have been prevented by improvements to children's environments and better supervision by adults. The depression, alcohol abuse and other emotional distress that lead to suicide can be alleviated through early intervention and help for troubled children. Child deaths through murder, usually by a child's caregiver, require help and assistance to families dealing with mental health issues, chemical dependency, domestic violence, and abuse and neglect.



Percent of Children Dying Violently in Minnesota, Compared to Average



## Minnesota Trends

The death rate per 10,000 children in Minnesota fluctuated throughout the first part of the decade, although there have been four years of steady decreases from 1996 through 1998. This largely reflects a decline in injury deaths. The largest percentage of child deaths continues to be motor vehicle crashes, which make up 42% of deaths from 1991 through 1998. Other injuries comprise 32%, suicides are 14% and homicides 12%. Trends for individual regions are more difficult to analyze because of the small numbers involved each year.

## For More Information

Minnesota Safety Council/MN SAFE KIDS Coalition. 1-800-444-9150. Provides training, consultation, outreach and safety resources for preventing unintentional injuries. Web site: <http://www.mnsafetycouncil.org>

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Hosts conferences, funds research and provides education and treatment programs. Web site: <http://www.afsp.org>

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. 1-888-327-4236. Helps states and communities reduce the threat of drunk drivers, promotes motor vehicle safety. Web site: <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov>

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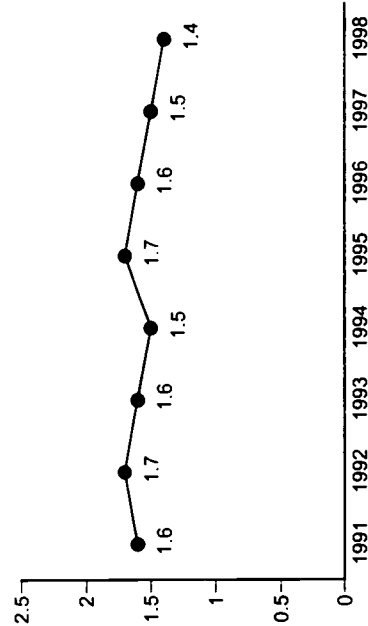
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	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
	#	rate/1000	#	rate/1000	#	rate/1000	#	rate/1000
REGION 1	6	*	5	*	7	*	7	*
REGION 2	4	*	4	*	9	*	6	*
REGION 3	21	2.6	21	2.6	13	1.6	11	1.4
REGION 4	6	*	15	2.8	6	*	9	*
REGION 5	13	3.4	8	*	18	4.6	5	*
REGION 6	18	3.9	10	2.2	8	*	11	2.3
REGION 7	24	2.6	22	1.9	20	1.7	31	2.5
REGION 8	2	*	7	*	9	*	8	*
REGION 9	8	*	9	*	21	3.6	5	*
REGION 10	24	2.1	12	1.0	10	0.8	13	1.1
Hennepin	35	1.4	37	1.5	32	1.3	37	1.5
Ramsey	13	1.0	20	1.6	23	1.8	18	1.4
Surr. Metro	25	1.0	43	1.7	28	1.1	22	0.8
STATE	199	1.6	213	1.7	204	1.6	183	1.5

\* Rates are not calculated for less than 10 deaths in a region.

### Child Deaths from Homicide, Suicide & Injuries, Rate per 10000, 1991-1998



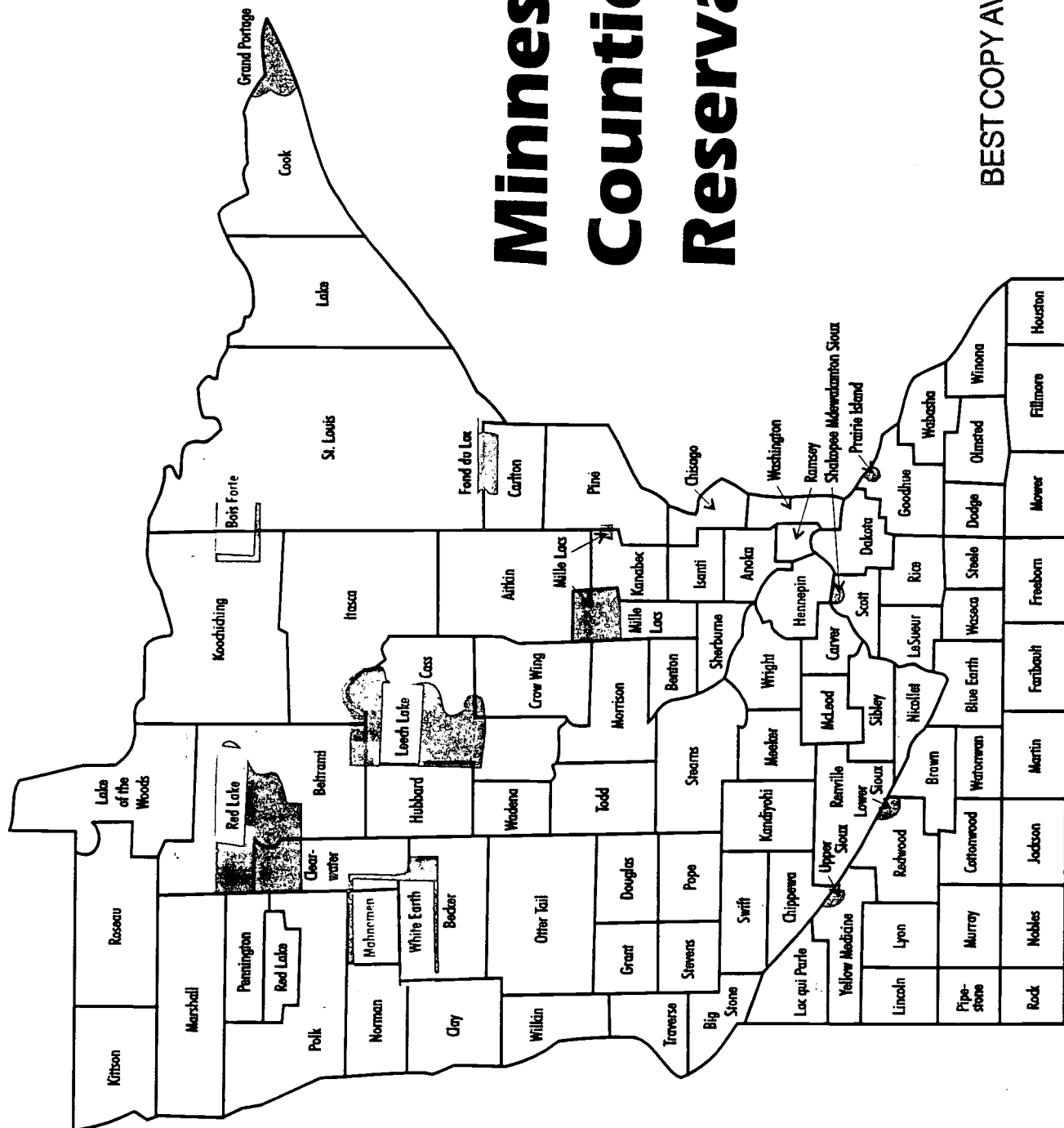
### Children Dying Violently

	All Children	Children of Color*		Hispanic	Murder	Suicide	Motor Vehicle Crashes	Other Injuries
1991	199	30	6	21	28	73	77	
1992	213	32	6	20	39	84	70	
1993	204	41	10	23	27	75	79	
1994	183	41	3	19	16	108	40	
1995	211	44	12	29	34	75	73	
1996	205	35	n/a	32	24	92	57	
1997	190	35	4	16	23	83	68	
1998	171	35	5	23	25	80	43	

\* does not include Hispanic

\* does not include Hispanic

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# Minnesota

## Demographics

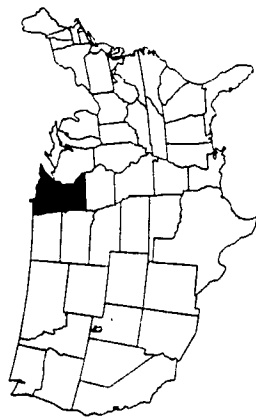
Estimated population, 1998	4,725,419
Estimated number of children, 1998	1,253,527
Estimated % of children, 1998	26.5%
Estimated number of children, 1991	1,209,365
% change in number of children, 1991-98	3.7%
Projected population, 2005	4,948,720
Projected number of children, 2005	1,330,890
(children defined as under 18)	



(a) 1996 data (b) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98  
(c) % of all arrests (d) rate per 10,000

Minnesota is the twentieth largest state in the United States. The per capita income in 1997 was \$26,243, fourteenth in the country. The largest industries in 1997 were services, durable goods manufacturing, and state and local government. The fastest growing industry was transportation and public utilities, increasing over 9% between 1996 and 1997. The 1998 unemployment rate was 2.5%.

In the most recent national KIDS COUNT data book, which used 1996 data, Minnesota ranked third best in the nation on a set of indicators of child well-being. The state ranked highest on indicators of child deaths, percent of teens not attending school and not working, percent of children living with parents not employed full-time year-round, and percent of low birth weight babies. Minnesota did less well on indicators of teen deaths by accident, homicide, and suicide, percent of teens who are high school dropouts, and percent of children in poverty.



## Family Economics

	1991	1995	1998	% change, 91-98
Children living below the poverty line	165,531	148,434	144,654 (a)	11.4% $\pm$ 1 (a) -19%
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	-	147,799	147,791	11.8% 10%
Children receiving free/reduced price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	198,407	223,893	222,938	26.3% 3%

## Starting Out

Children born to teen mothers (b)	1,840	2,023	22	1,940	17.7	-20%	
Children born at low birth weight	3,339	5.0%	3,709	5.9%	3,806	5.8%	17%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)		130,860	15.9%	147,231	17.6%	29%	

## Signs of Trouble

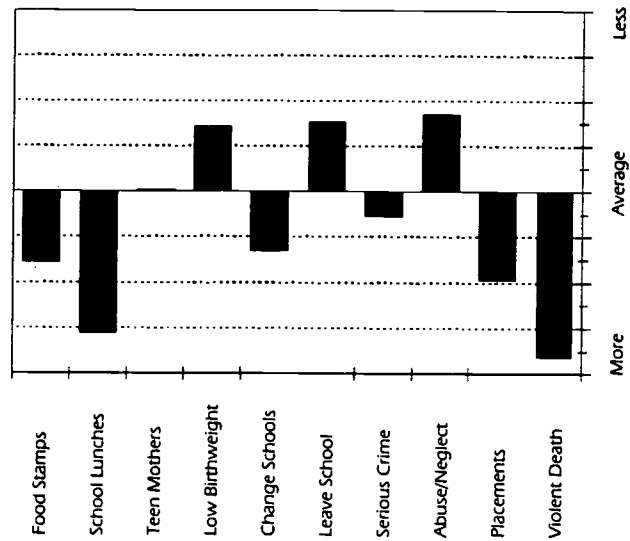
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	11,491	3.5%	15,701	4.1%	13,180	3.3%	-6%
Children arrested for serious crimes (c)	17,688	42.6%	20,354	48.6%	18,416	46.8%	10%
Children abused & neglected (rate per 1,000)	10,224	8.5	10,273	8.3	10,572	8.6	2%
Children in out-of-home placements (rate per 1,000)	16,777	13.9	18,492	15.0	18,854	15.0	8%
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries (d)	199	1.6	211	1.5	171	1.5	-8%

# Aitkin

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	14,152
Estimated number of children, 1998	3,232
Estimated % of children, 1998	22.8%
Estimated number of children, 1991	2,996
% change in number of children, 1991-98	7.9%
Projected population, 2005	14,410
Projected number of children, 2005 (children defined as under 18)	3,420

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Aitkin County



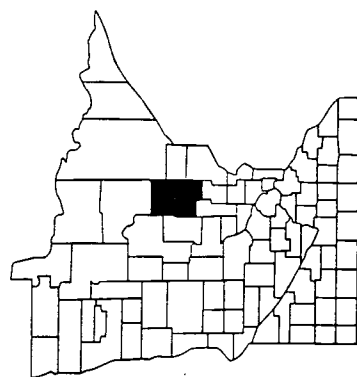
Compared to the Average County 1998  
(definitions for the data are on p. 125)

Aitkin County is a moderately small county located in northeastern Minnesota. The county seat is Aitkin. A portion of the Mille Lacs Reservation is located in the county. The county's per capita personal income of \$17,246 was the ninth lowest among Minnesota counties in 1997. The largest industries in the county in 1997 were services, state and local government, and durable goods manufacturing. Durable goods manufacturing was the fastest growing industry, increasing over 15% from 1996 to 1997. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 7.5%.

**Positives:** Lower than average percentage of children dropping out of school, substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect, and children born at low birth weight.

**Concerns:** Higher than average percentage of children receiving food stamps and free/reduced-price lunch, and out-of-home placements. Child death rate probably reflects a single-year fluctuation.

**Trends to Watch:** Decrease in percentage of children receiving food stamps.



	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
<b>Family Economics</b>				
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	693	22%	523	16%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunch (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	506	55%	1094	46%
<b>Starting Out</b>				
Children born to teen mothers (a)	3	2	15	5
Children born at low birth weight	6	5%	9	6%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)	335	14%	393	17%
<b>Signs of Trouble</b>				
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	19	2%	22	2%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	23	61%	15	25%
Children abused & neglected	22	30	12	10,572
Children in out-of-home placements	47	67	66	18,854
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	1	0	2	171

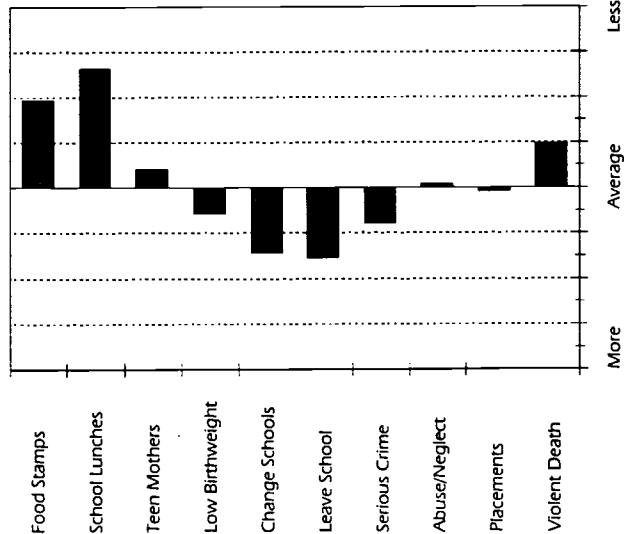
(a) rates for 93-95,95-97,96-98 (b) % of all arrests

# Anoka

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	292,181
Estimated number of children, 1998	84,206
Estimated % of children, 1998	28.8%
Estimated number of children, 1991	78,161
% change in number of children, 1991-98	7.7%
Projected population, 2005	318,260
Projected number of children, 2005	94,260
(children defined as under 18)	

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Anoka County



**Compared to the Average County 1998**  
(definitions for the data are on p. 125)

87

88

Anoka County is part of the northern section of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Statistical Area. The county seat is Anoka. The county is the fourth largest in Minnesota. Over 3% of school children speak a language other than English at home. Anoka County had a 1997 per capita personal income of \$23,762, the eleventh highest in the state. In 1997, the largest industries in the county were durable goods manufacturing, services, and state and local government. The fastest growing industry in Anoka was wholesale trade, which increased 12% from 1996. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 1.9%.

**Positives:** Lower-than-average percentage of children receiving food stamps and free/reduced-price lunch.

**Concerns:** Higher-than-average percentage of school dropouts and transfers.

**Trend to Watch:** Decrease in teen birth rate.

## Family Economics

Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)

Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)

## Starting Out

Children born to teenage mothers (a)

Children born at low birth weight

Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)

## Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)

Children arrested for serious crimes (b)

Children abused and neglected

Children in out-of-home placements

Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries

(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

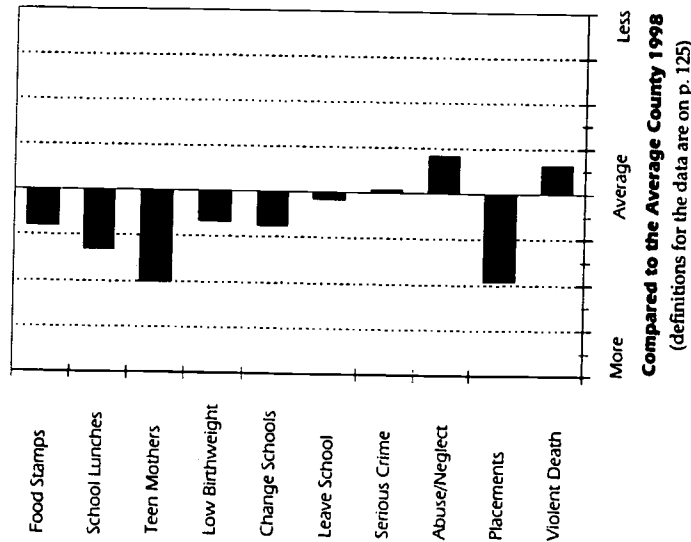
	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	6,240	7%	4,766	6%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	8,416	16%	10,433	17%
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	104	116	18	13
Children born at low birth weight	208	5%	253	6%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)	9,906	17%	10,605	17%
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	595	3%	969	3%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	1,502	49%	1,116	51%
Children abused and neglected	401	432	567	10,572
Children in out-of-home placements	874	1,157	1,192	18,858
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	7	7	7	171

# Becker

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	29,381
Estimated number of children, 1998	8,226
Estimated % of children, 1998	28.0%
Estimated number of children, 1991	8,256
% change in number of children, 1991-98	-0.4%
Projected population, 2005	30,410
Projected number of children, 2005	8,140
(children defined as under 18)	

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Becker County



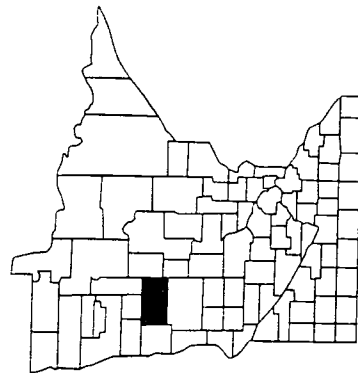
89

Becker County is a mid-size county located in northwestern Minnesota. The county seat is Detroit Lakes. A portion of the White Earth Indian Reservation is located in the county. In 1997, Becker had a per capita personal income of \$17,964, which was the fifteenth lowest in the state. Becker County's largest industries in 1997 were services, state and local government, and retail trade. The fastest growing industry was transportation and public utilities, which increased by 9%. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 5.6%.

**Positives:** Near the average county on several child well-being indicators.

**Concerns:** Higher-than-average rate of teen births and out-of-home placements.

**Trends to Watch:** Decrease in percentage of children receiving food stamps.



	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
<b>Family Economics</b>				
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	2,004	1,425	1,138	147,791
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	39%	39%	37%	26.3%
<b>Starting Out</b>				
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	19	10	21	1,940
Children born at low birth weight	17	4%	22	6%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)	709	14%	771	15%
<b>Signs of Trouble</b>				
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	31	1%	61	2%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	71	37%	36	43%
Children abused and neglected	71	63	44	10,572
Children in out-of-home placements	110	153	167	18,858
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	2	4	1	171

(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

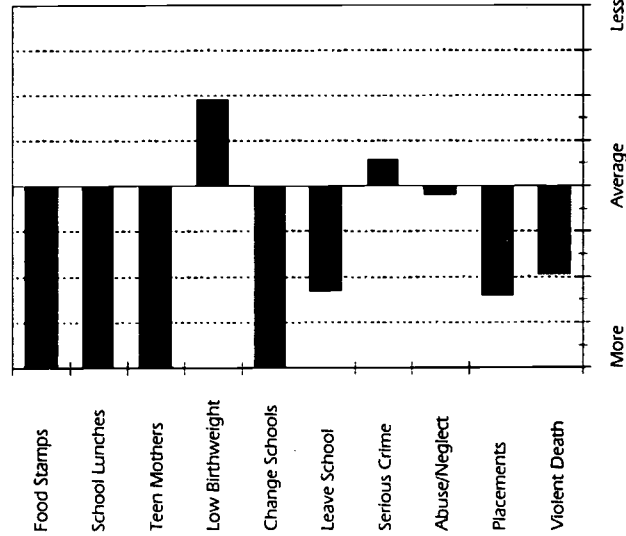
90

# Beltrami

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	38,729
Estimated number of children, 1998	11,770
Estimated % of children, 1998	30.4%
Estimated number of children, 1991	10,622
% change in number of children, 1991-98	10.8%
Projected population, 2005	40,590
Projected number of children, 2005	12,890
(children defined as under 18)	

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Beltrami County



**Compared to the Average County 1998**  
(definitions for the data are on p. 125)

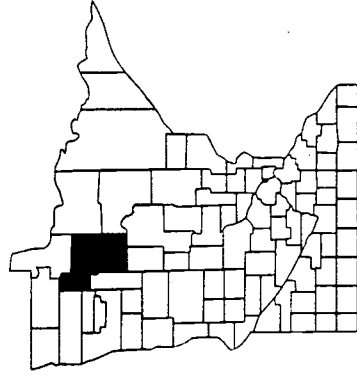
91

Beltrami County is located in north central Minnesota and is the twenty-third largest county in the state. The county seat is Bemidji. Parts of the Red Lake and Leech Lake Indian Reservations are located in the county. In 1997, Beltrami had a per capita personal income of \$17,492, the twelfth lowest in Minnesota. Services, state and local government, and retail trade were the largest industries. The fastest growing industry was services, which increased by over 14% between 1996 and 1997. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 4.5%.

**Positives:** Lower-than-average rate of low birth weight babies.

**Concerns:** Higher-than-average percentage of children receiving free/reduced-price school lunch and food stamps, teen births, school transfers and dropouts, and out-of-home placements.

**Trends to Watch:** Increase in school transfers.



## Family Economics

	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	3,102	27%	3,243	28%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	2,942	36%	4,381	53%
		44%		222,938
				26.3%

## Starting Out

Children born to teenage mothers (a)	22	27	30	37	31	1,940	17.7
Children born at low birth weight	23	4%	29	5%	19	3%	3,806
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)		2,064	25%	2,678	32%	147,231	17.6%

## Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	74	2%	164	4%	163	4%	13,180	3.3%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	290	41%	271	44%	182	39%	18,416	46.8%
Children abused and neglected	90		91		85		10,572	
Children in out-of-home placements	201		234		258		18,858	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	2		8		5		171	

(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

92

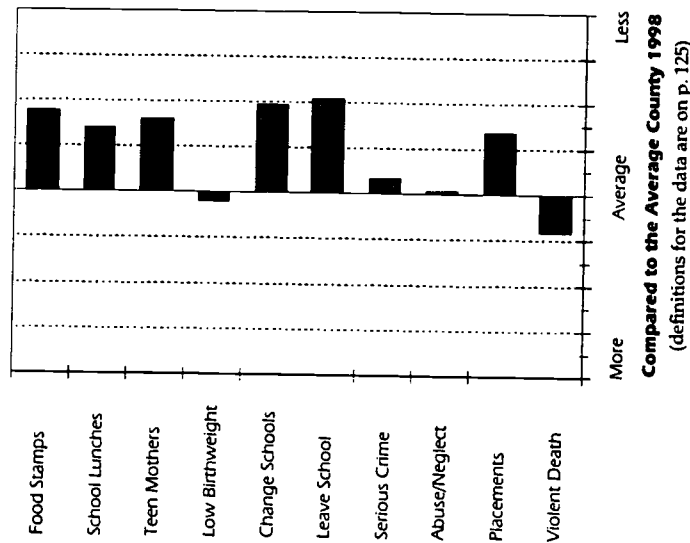


# Benton

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	34,128
Estimated number of children, 1998	10,194
Estimated % of children, 1998	29.9%
Estimated number of children, 1991	9,387
% change in number of children, 1991-98	8.6%
Projected population, 2005	39,590
Projected number of children, 2005	11,480
(children defined as under 18)	

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Benton County

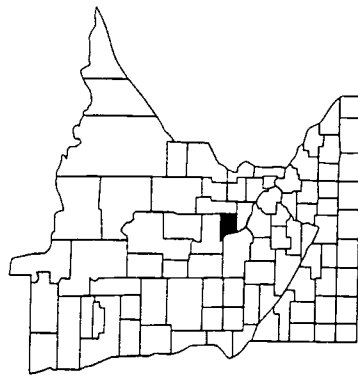


Benton County is a moderately large county located within the St. Cloud Metropolitan area in central Minnesota. The county seat is Foley. The county's per capita personal income of \$18,953 ranked sixty-second in the state. The largest industries in 1997 in Benton County were services, non-durable goods manufacturing, and retail trade. Construction was the fastest growing industry, increasing at a rate of almost 11% from 1996 to 1997. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 3.2%.

**Positives:** Lower-than-average rates of school transfers and dropouts, teen births, out-of-home placements, and percentage of children receiving food stamps and free/reduced-price lunches.

**Concerns:** None

**Trends to Watch:** Increase in number of children in out-of-home placements.



	1991	1995	1998	1998 State				
Family Economics								
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)		846	627	6%	147,791	11.8%		
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	1,182	23%	1,310	23%	1,172	23%	222,938	26.3%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	4	10	14	5	10	1,940	17.7	
Children born at low birth weight	25	5%	39	8%	29	6%	3,806	5.8%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)		435	8%	429	8%	147,231	17.6%	
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	7	0%	26	1%	18	1%	13,180	3.3%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	49	32%	110	53%	71	41%	18,416	46.8%
Children abused and neglected	52		40		69		10,572	
Children in out-of-home placements	53		78		95		18,858	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	3	5		3			171	

(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

93

94

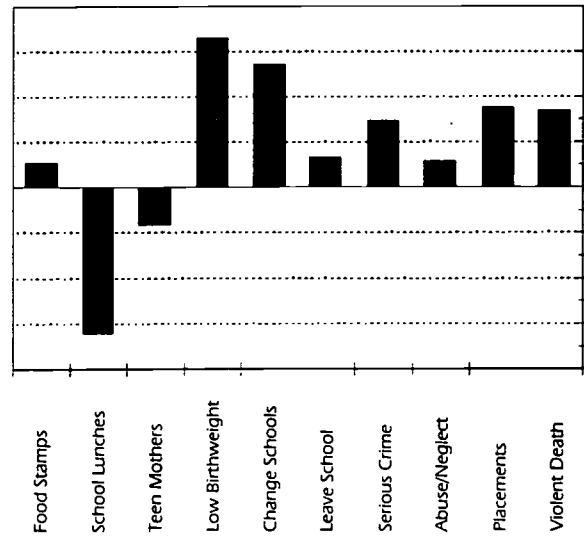


# Big Stone

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998 .....	5,654
Estimated number of children, 1998 .....	1,379
Estimated % of children, 1998 .....	24.4%
Estimated number of children, 1991 .....	1,620
% change in number of children, 1991-98 .....	-14.9%
Projected population, 2005 .....	5,300
Projected number of children, 2005 .....	1,270
(children defined as under 18)	

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children In Big Stone County



More Average Less  
**Compared to the Average County 1998**  
 (definitions for the data are on p. 125)

95

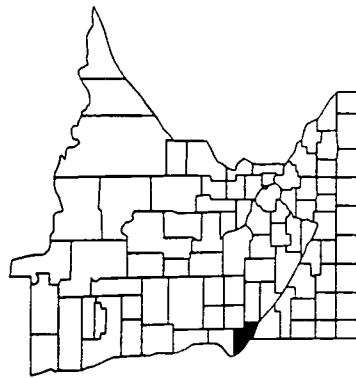


Big Stone County is located in west central Minnesota on the South Dakota border. The county seat is Ortonville. In 1997, Big Stone was the seventh smallest county in the state and had a per capita personal income of \$18,401, which ranked sixty-eighth in the state. The largest industries in 1997 were state and local government, services, and construction. The fastest growing industry was construction, which increased more than 23% between 1996 and 1997. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 3.5%.

**Positives:** Lower-than-average rate of low birth weight babies and school transfers.

**Concerns:** Higher-than-average percentage of children receiving free/reduced-price school lunch.

**Trends to Watch:** Increase in school transfers.



	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
<b>Family Economics</b>				
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	164	11%	136	10%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	611	47%	622	47%
<b>Starting Out</b>				
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	1	0	3	18
Children born at low birth weight	3	4%	1	2%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)	64	4%	87	6%
<b>Signs of Trouble</b>				
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	0	8	13	2%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	12	43%	10	31%
Children abused and neglected	13	8	8	10,572
Children in out-of-home placements	9	17	11	18,858
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0	0	0	171

(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

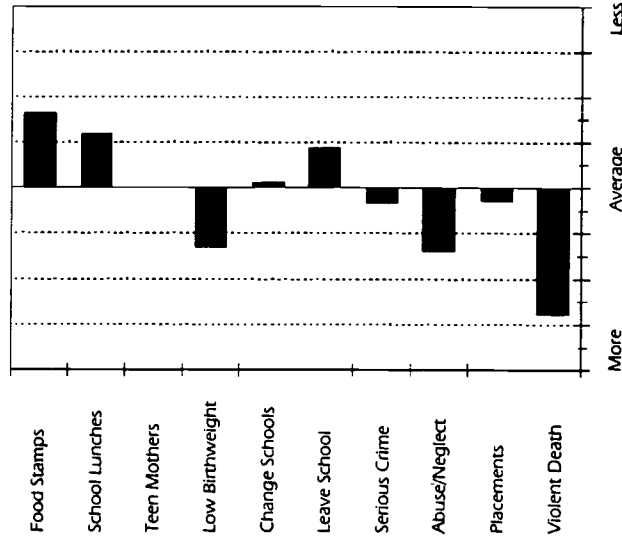
96

# Blue Earth

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	53,767
Estimated number of children, 1998	13,499
Estimated % of children, 1998	25.1%
Estimated number of children, 1991	12,730
% change in number of children, 1991-98	6.0%
Projected population, 2005	56,110
Projected number of children, 2005 (children defined as under 18)	15,110

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Blue Earth County



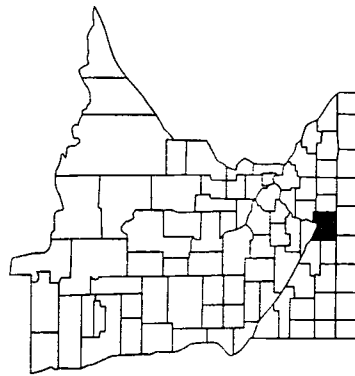
**Compared to the Average County 1998**  
(definitions for the data are on p. 125)

Blue Earth County, located in south central Minnesota, is the fourteenth largest county in Minnesota. The county seat is Mankato. The county's 1997 per capita personal income of \$22,361 ranked fourteenth among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in Blue Earth County in 1997 were services, state and local government, and retail trade. The fastest growing industry was durable goods manufacturing, which increased more almost 18% between 1996 and 1997. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 2%.

**Positives:** Close to or better than the average county on most indicators of child well-being.

**Concerns:** Higher-than-average rate of child deaths (this could be a one-year anomaly).

**Trends to Watch:** Increase in out-of-home placements.



## Family Economics

Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)

Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)

## Starting Out

Children born to teenage mothers (a)

Children born at low birth weight

Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)

## Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)

Children arrested for serious crimes (b)

Children abused and neglected

Children in out-of-home placements

Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries

	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	2,361	2,772	2,472	1,428
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	23%	25%	24%	11%
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	14	13	17	15
Children born at low birth weight	19	3%	44	7%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)	1,103	1,369	1,472	1,369
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	104	124	85	2%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	264	37%	260	46%
Children abused and neglected	188	249	128	10,572
Children in out-of-home placements	141	185	200	18,858
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	1	1	7	171

(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

98

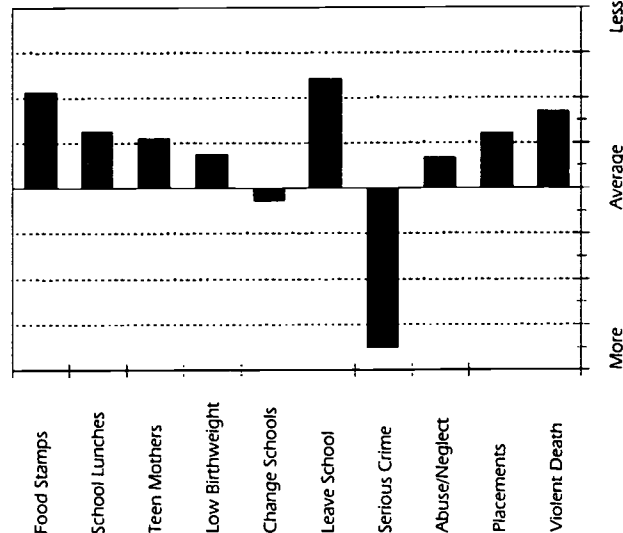


# Brown

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998 .....	27,037
Estimated number of children, 1998 .....	7,150
Estimated % of children, 1998 .....	26.4%
Estimated number of children, 1991 .....	7,453
% change in number of children, 1991-98 .....	-4.1%
Projected population, 2005 .....	27,750
Projected number of children, 2005 .....	7,340
(children defined as under 18)	

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Brown County

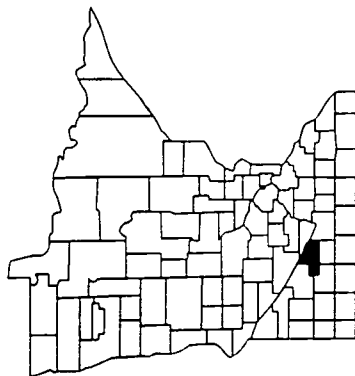


Brown County is a mid-size county located along the Minnesota River in the southwestern portion of the state. The county seat is New Ulm. Almost 4% of school children speak Spanish at home. Brown County had a 1997 per capita personal income of \$22,207 which ranked twenty-fourth in the state. The largest industries were services, durable goods manufacturing, and non-durable goods manufacturing. Services was also the fastest growing industry, increasing at a rate of 6% since 1996. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 3.7%.

**Positives:** Lower-than-average percentage of children receiving food stamps and dropping out of school.

**Concerns:** Higher-than-average arrests of children for serious crimes (this could be due to a lower-than-average number of adult arrests.)

**Trends to Watch:** Increase in school transfers.



## Family Economics

Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)

Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)

## Starting Out

Children born to teenage mothers (a)

Children born at low birth weight

Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)

## Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)

Children arrested for serious crimes (b)

Children abused and neglected

Children in out-of-home placements

Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries

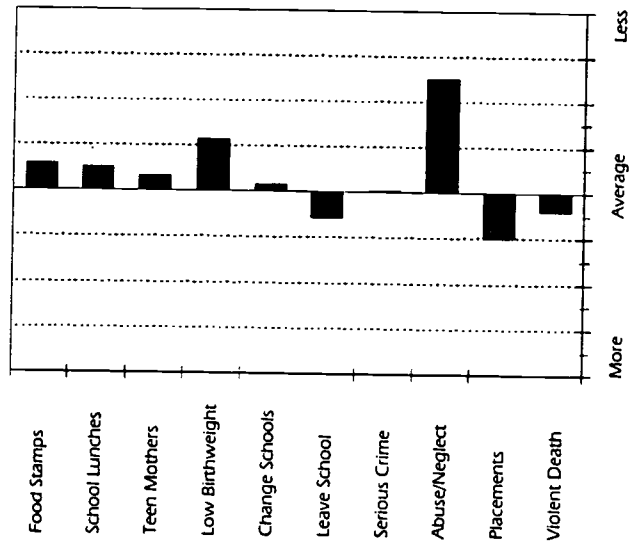
	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	584	8%	367	5%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	1,305	22%	1,057	24%
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	8	9	12	11
Children born at low birth weight	23	7%	12	5%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)	492	11%	636	14%
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	29	2%	10	0%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	62	33%	108	68%
Children abused and neglected	32	41	40	10,572
Children in out-of-home placements	63	69	70	18,858
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	2	0	0	171

# Carlton

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998 .....	30,817
Estimated number of children, 1998 .....	8,240
Estimated % of children, 1998 .....	26.74%
Estimated number of children, 1991 .....	8,324
% change in number of children, 1991-98 .....	-1.01%
Projected population, 2005 .....	31,110
Projected number of children, 2005 .....	8,250
(children defined as under 18)	

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Carlton County

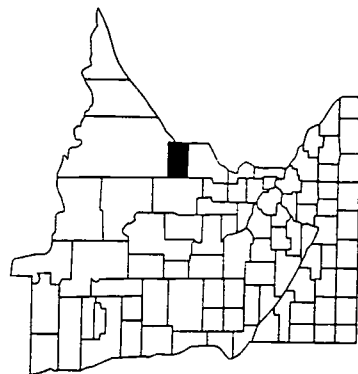


More Average Less  
**Compared to the Average County 1998**  
 (definitions for the data are on p. 125)

Carlton County is a moderately large county located in northwestern Minnesota on the shore of Lake Superior. The county seat is Carlton. It includes part of the Fond du Lac Indian Reservation. In 1997, Carlton had a per capita personal income of \$18,853, which ranked sixty-third among Minnesota counties. Non-durable goods manufacturing, services, and state and local government were the largest industries. The fastest growing industry was construction, which increased almost 12% between 1996 and 1997. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 4.6%.

**Positives:** Lower-than-average number of reports of child abuse and neglect.  
**Concerns:** None.

**Trends to Watch:** Decrease in percentage of children receiving food stamps.



	1991	1995	1998	1998 State				
Family Economics								
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)		1,008	12%	801	10%	147,791	11.8%	
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	2,029	31%	2,062	30%	1,792	27%	222,938	26.3%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	9	10	18	16	14	1,940	17.7	
Children born at low birth weight	10	3%	12	4%	16	4%	3,806	5.8%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)		879	13%	849	13%	147,231	17.6%	
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	101	3%	84	3%	89	3%	13,180	3.3%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	168	52%	98	52%	102	44%	18,416	46.8%
Children abused and neglected	34		27		18		10,572	
Children in out-of-home placements	134		170		142		18,858	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	3	0		2			171	

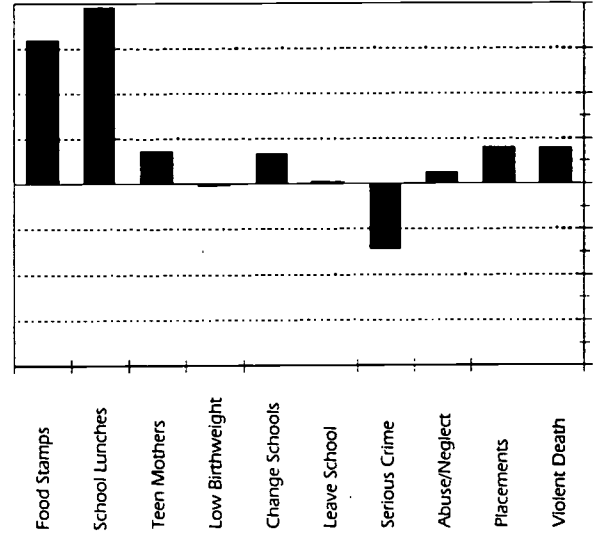
(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

# Carver

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	64,674
Estimated number of children, 1998	19,153
Estimated % of children, 1998	29.6%
Estimated number of children, 1991	15,285
% change in number of children, 1991-98	25.3%
Projected population, 2005	72,940
Projected number of children, 2005 (children defined as under 18)	21,570

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Carver County



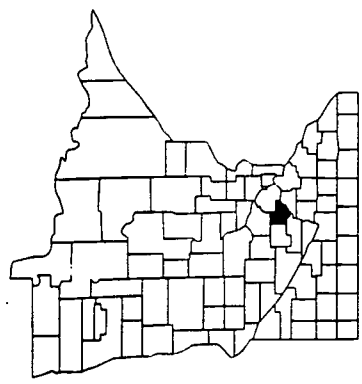
More Average Less  
**Compared to the Average County 1998**  
(definitions for the data are on p. 125)

Carver County, the eleventh largest county in the state, is located on the western edge of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Statistical Area. The county seat is Chaska. Over 3% of students speak a language other than English at home, primarily Spanish or southeast Asian languages. In 1997, Carver had the third highest per capita personal income in the state: \$28,612. The largest industries in 1997 were durable goods manufacturing, services, and non-durable goods manufacturing. The services industry was the fastest growing, increasing by over 25% from 1996 to 1997. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 1.8%.

**Positives:** Lower-than-average percentage of children receiving food stamps and free/reduced-price school lunch.

**Concerns:** None.

**Trends to Watch:** Increase in teen birth rate.



	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
<b>Family Economics</b>				
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)				
		552	370	2%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	1,025	1,478	1,127	10%
				222,938
				26.3%
<b>Starting Out</b>				
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	14	12	20	12
				1,940
				17.7
Children born at low birth weight	33	58	57	5%
				3,806
				5.8%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)	1,101	1,111	1,212	12%
				147,231
				17.6%
<b>Signs of Trouble</b>				
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	227	54	115	2%
				13,180
				3.3%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	130	185	216	57%
				18,416
				46.8%
Children abused and neglected	56	90	122	
				10,572
Children in out-of-home placements	114	199	214	
				18,858
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	3	3	2	
				171

(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

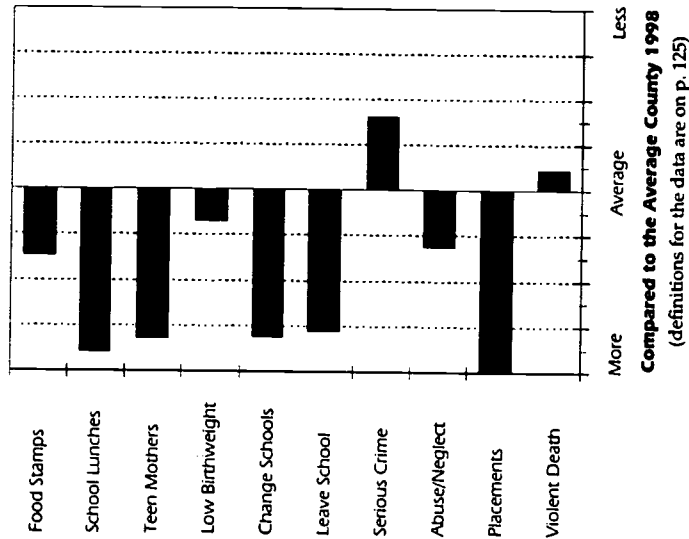


# Cass

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	26,465
Estimated number of children, 1998	6,936
Estimated % of children, 1998	26.2%
Estimated number of children, 1991	6,099
% change in number of children, 1991-98	13.7%
Projected population, 2005	26,220
Projected number of children, 2005	6,630
(children defined as under 18)	

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children In Cass County

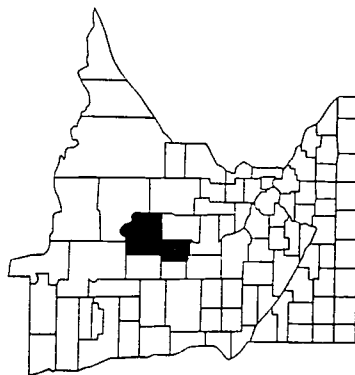


Cass County is a mid-size county located in north central Minnesota. The county seat is Walker. Part of the Leech Lake Indian Reservation is within the county's borders. Cass County's 1997 per capita personal income of \$17,395 was the twelfth lowest in the state. The largest industries in the county in 1997 were services, state and local government, and retail trade. The fastest growing industry was retail trade, which increased by 6% between 1996 and 1997. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 5.6%.

**Positives:** Lower-than-average percent of arrests of children for serious crime.

**Concerns:** Higher-than-average percentages of: children receiving food stamps and free/reduced-price school lunch, teen births, school transfers and dropouts, and out-of-home placements.

**Trends to Watch:** Decreases in children receiving free/reduced-price school lunch and food stamps.



	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
<b>Family Economics</b>				
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)		1,358	20%	1,100
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	2,491	53%	2,972	58%
			2,410	49%
			222,938	26.3%
<b>Starting Out</b>				
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	16	16	34	11
Children born at low birth weight	19	6%	15	6%
			18	6%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)		996	22%	1,058
			22%	147,231
				17.6%
<b>Signs of Trouble</b>				
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	105	6%	89	4%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	34	31%	34	27%
			52	30%
Children abused and neglected	90	79	64	10,572
Children in out-of-home placements	190	223	269	18,858
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	4	1	1	171

(a) rates for 93-95,95-97,96-98 (b) % of all arrests

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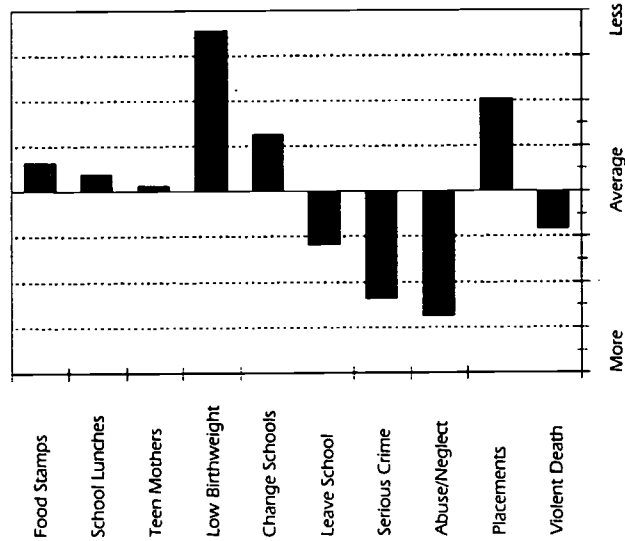


# Chippewa

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	13,053
Estimated number of children, 1998	3,413
Estimated % of children, 1998	26.1%
Estimated number of children, 1991	3,622
% change in number of children, 1991-98	-5.8%
Projected population, 2005	12,170
Projected number of children, 2005	3,080
(children defined as under 18)	

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Chippewa County



**Compared to the Average County 1998**  
(definitions for the data are on p. 125)



107

Chippewa County is a moderately small county located in west central Minnesota along the Minnesota River. The county seat is Montevideo. During the summer months, the county's population includes migrant farm workers and their children. In 1996, Chippewa had a per capita personal income of \$22,252, which was twentieth in the state. The largest industries were durable goods, construction, and services. Wholesale trade was the fastest growing industry, increasing by 35% from 1996 to 1997. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 3.9%.

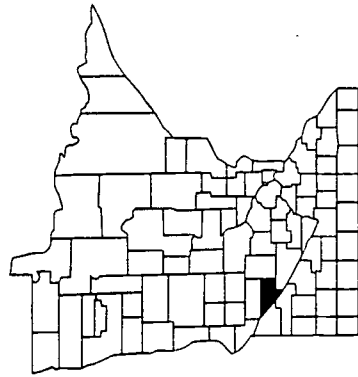
**Positives:** Lower-than-average percentage of children born at low birth weight and children in out-of-home placements.

**Concerns:** Higher-than-average reports of substantiated abuse and neglect, and percent of arrests of children for serious crimes (this number could be due to a lower-than-average number of adult arrests.)

**Trends to Watch:** Decrease in the percentage of children receiving food stamps.

	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
<b>Family Economics</b>				
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	635	18%	324	9% 147,791 11.8%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	693	28%	760	28% 222,938 26.3%
<b>Starting Out</b>				
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	0	4	14	8 14 1,940 17.7
Children born at low birth weight	5	3%	2	2% 3,806 5.8%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)	263	9%	274	10% 147,231 17.6%
<b>Signs of Trouble</b>				
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	19	2%	45	3% 13,180 3.3%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	42	71%	35	65% 18,416 46.8%
Children abused and neglected	41	30	41	10,572
Children in out-of-home placements	29	38	24	18,858
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	1	0	1	171

(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

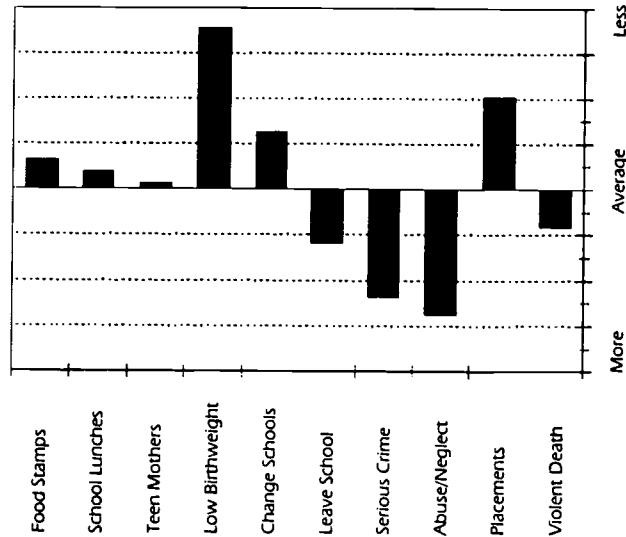


# Chisago

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998 .....	40,852
Estimated number of children, 1998 .....	12,382
Estimated % of children, 1998 .....	30.3%
Estimated number of children, 1991 .....	9,777
% change in number of children, 1991-98 .....	26.6%
Projected population, 2005 .....	43,110
Projected number of children, 2005 .....	13,510
(children defined as under 18)	

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Chisago County



**Compared to the Average County 1998**  
(definitions for the data are on p. 125)

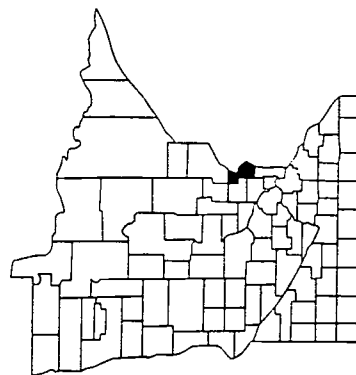
109

Chisago County, a moderately large county, is located in west central Minnesota on the Wisconsin border and is part of the northern edge of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Statistical Area. The county seat is Center City. In 1997, Chisago had a per capita personal income of \$21,169, which was thirty-first among Minnesota counties. The largest industries were services, state and local government, and durable goods manufacturing. Services was the fastest growing industry, increasing by 12% between 1996 and 1997. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 3%.

**Positives:** Lower-than-average percentage of children receiving food stamps and free/reduced-price school lunch.

**Concerns:** None.

**Trends to Watch:** Decrease in percentage of children receiving food stamps.



	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
--	------	------	------	---------------

## Family Economics

Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	872	8%	627	5%	147,791	11.8%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	1,372	23%	1,583	23%	222,938	26.3%

## Starting Out

Children born to teenage mothers (a)	10	13	16	8	16	1,940	17.7	
Children born at low birth weight	21	4%	26	5%	23	4%	3,806	5.8%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)			976	14%	980	13%	147,231	17.6%

## Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	124	4%	71	2%	82	2%	13,180	3.3%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	123	52%	95	55%	77	47%	18,416	46.8%
Children abused and neglected	65		68		79		10,572	
Children in out-of-home placements	137		195		195		18,858	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	2		1		0		171	

(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

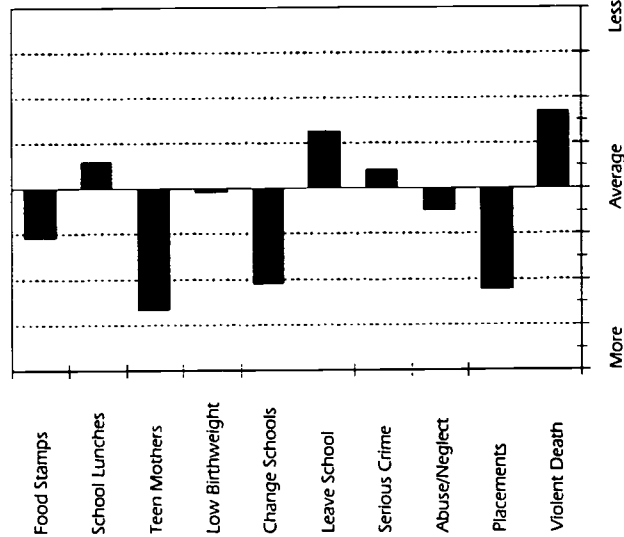
110

# Clay

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	51,599
Estimated number of children, 1998	13,973
Estimated % of children, 1998	27.1%
Estimated number of children, 1991	13,302
% change in number of children, 1991-98	5.0%
Projected population, 2005	54,310
Projected number of children, 2005	15,920
(children defined as under 18)	

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Clay County



Compared to the Average County 1998  
(definitions for the data are on p. 125)

111

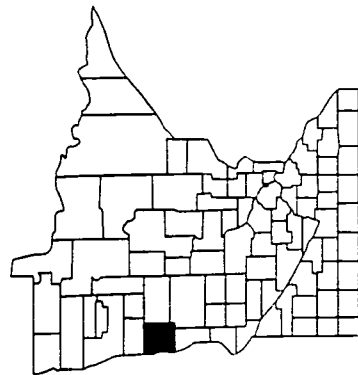


Clay County, a moderately large county and part of the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Statistical Area, is located in northwestern Minnesota on the North Dakota border. The county seat is Moorhead. Almost 9% of students speak Spanish at home. In 1997, it had a per capita personal income of \$18,180, the tenth lowest among Minnesota counties. The largest industries were services, state and local government, and retail trade. The fastest growing industry was transportation and public utilities, increasing by more than 11% between 1996 and 1997. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 2%.

**Positives:** Near average on most indicators of child well-being.

**Concerns:** Higher-than-average rate of teen births, school transfers and out-of-home placements.

**Trends to Watch:** Decrease in percentage of children receiving food stamps.



## Family Economics

Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)

	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	2,415	2,684	2,047	147,791

Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)

	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	28%	29%	27%	222,938

## Starting Out

Children born to teenage mothers (a)

	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	23	34	26	1,940

Children born at low birth weight

	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
Children born at low birth weight	30	34	35	3,806

Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)

	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)	1,887	20%	1,747	147,231

## Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)

	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	48	87	57	13,180

Children arrested for serious crimes (b)

	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	180	251	170	18,416

Children abused and neglected

	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
Children abused and neglected	101	141	109	10,572

Children in out-of-home placements

	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
Children in out-of-home placements	214	269	298	18,858

Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries

	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	2	10	0	171

(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

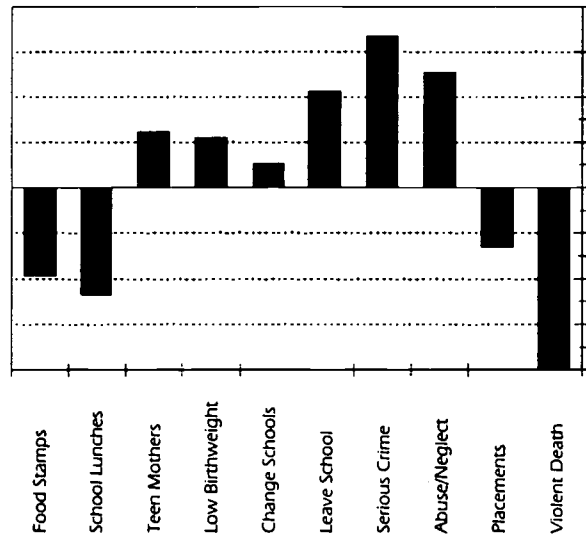
112

# Clearwater

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	8,285
Estimated number of children, 1998	2,356
Estimated % of children, 1998	28.4%
Estimated number of children, 1991	2,408
% change in number of children, 1991-98	-2.1%
Projected population, 2005	8,260
Projected number of children, 2005	2,390
(children defined as under 18)	

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Clearwater County



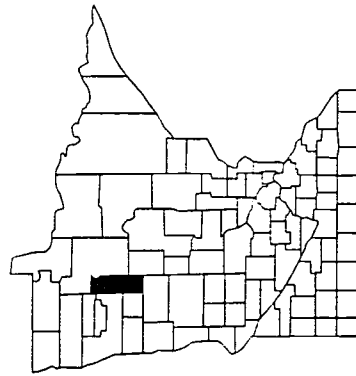
More Average Less  
**Compared to the Average County 1998**  
 (definitions for the data are on p. 125)

Clearwater County, in northwestern Minnesota, is the thirteenth smallest county in the state. The county seat is Bagley. Portions of Red Lake and White Earth Indian Reservations are located within the county. The county's 1997 per capita personal income of \$15,384 was the fourth lowest in Minnesota. State and local government, construction, and services were the county's largest industries in 1997. The fastest growing industry was durable goods manufacturing, which increased over 16% from 1996. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 10.8%.

**Positives:** Lower-than-average percentages of children dropping out of school, arrests of children for serious crime, and reports of child abuse and neglect.

**Concerns:** Higher-than-average number of child deaths (this could be due to a single-year fluctuation), and more children receiving free/reduced-price lunch and food stamps.

**Trends to Watch:** Decrease in dropout rate.



	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
<b>Family Economics</b>				
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	463	19%	407	17%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	824	45%	751	42%
<b>Starting Out</b>				
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	4	4	1	11
Children born at low birth weight	5	4%	7	4%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)	222	12%	220	12%
<b>Signs of Trouble</b>				
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	28	3%	29	3%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	10	31%	4	15%
Children abused and neglected	13	7	5	10,572
Children in out-of-home placements	32	56	43	18,858
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	1	3	3	171

(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

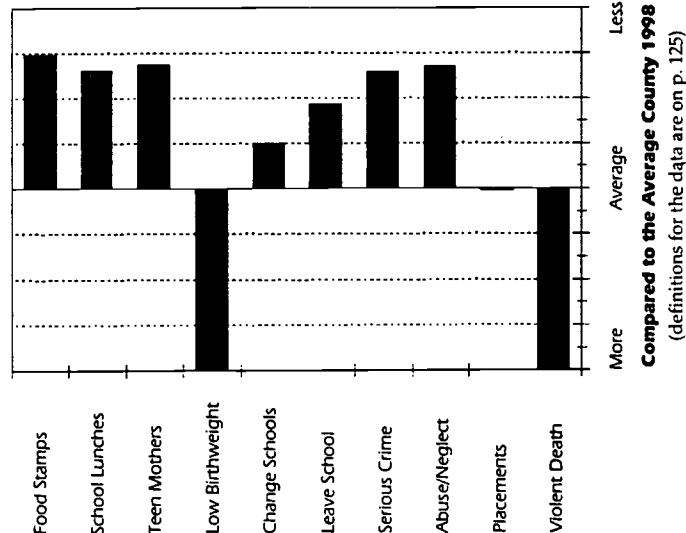
114

# Cook

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	4,792
Estimated number of children, 1998	1,072
Estimated % of children, 1998	22.4%
Estimated number of children, 1991	962
% change in number of children, 1991-98	11.4%
Projected population, 2005	4,360
Projected number of children, 2005 (children defined as under 18)	1,100

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children In Cook County



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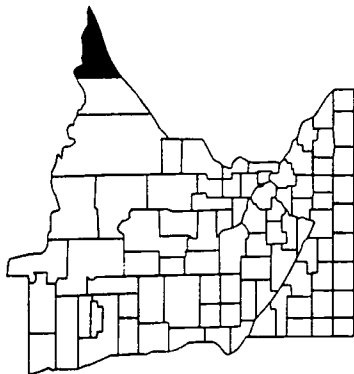


Cook County is the fourth smallest county in Minnesota. The county seat is Grand Marais. It is located in the Arrowhead Region of northeastern Minnesota bordering Canada and Lake Superior. The Grand Portage Indian Reservation is located in the county. Its per capita personal income of \$22,484 was the seventeenth highest in Minnesota. The largest industries in 1997 were services, state and local government, and retail trade. Durable goods manufacturing was the fastest growing industry, increasing by more than 9% from 1996. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 3.8%.

**Positives:** Better than the average county for most indicators of child well-being.

**Concerns:** Higher-than-average percentage of low birth weight babies and child deaths, although this could be a single-year anomaly due to small numbers.

**Trends to Watch:** Decrease in percentage of children receiving food stamps.



	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
<b>Family Economics</b>				
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)		46	28	3%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	108	16%	124	17%
<b>Starting Out</b>				
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	0	3	1	6
Children born at low birth weight	1	2%	5	10%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)		97	81	11%
<b>Signs of Trouble</b>				
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	5	2%	3	1%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	18	38%	3	21%
Children abused and neglected	15	3	2	
Children in out-of-home placements	12	9	15	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0	1	1	

(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

116

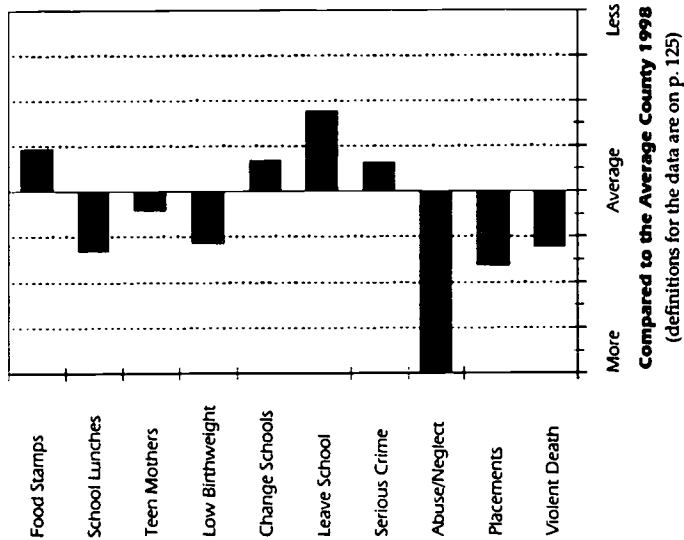


# Cottonwood

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	12,045
Estimated number of children, 1998	2,953
Estimated % of children, 1998	24.5%
Estimated number of children, 1991	3,273
% change in number of children, 1991-98	-9.8%
Projected population, 2005	12,010
Projected number of children, 2005	3,010
(children defined as under 18)	

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Cottonwood County



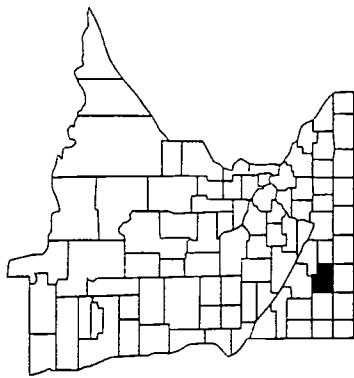
117

Cottonwood County is a moderately small county located in southwestern Minnesota. The county seat is Windom. Over 9% of students speak a language other than English at home, mostly Lao or Spanish. Cottonwood County's 1997 per capita personal income of \$20,804 ranked thirty-eighth in the state. The largest industries in 1997 were services, farm, and state and local government. The fastest growing industry was wholesale trade, which increased almost 11% between 1996 and 1997. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 4.9%.

**Positives:** Lower-than-average percentage of children dropping out of school.

**Concerns:** Higher-than-average substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect.

**Trends to Watch:** Increase in school transfers.



	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
<b>Family Economics</b>				
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	749	828	255	9%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	31%	34%	731	37%
<b>Starting Out</b>				
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	3	2	4	16
Children born at low birth weight	5	1	9	7%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)	226	10%	239	12%
<b>Signs of Trouble</b>				
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	9	1%	10	1%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	38	57%	23	38%
Children abused and neglected	57	65	43	10,572
Children in out-of-home placements	45	81	57	18,858
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0	0	1	171

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(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

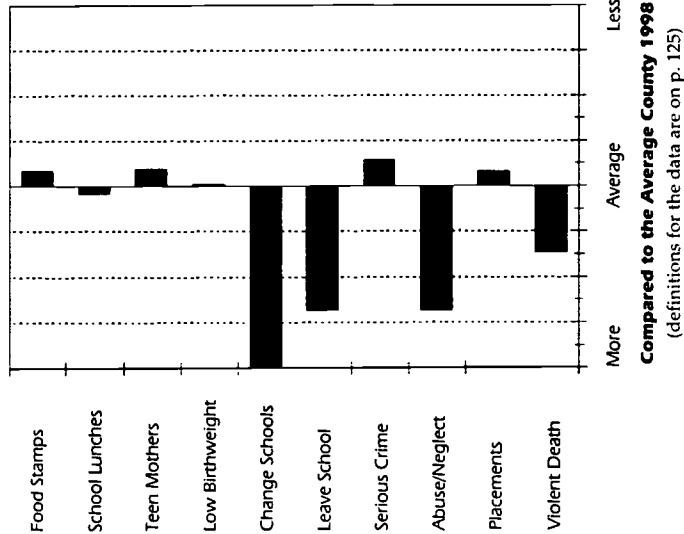


# Crow Wing

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	51,681
Estimated number of children, 1998	13,580
Estimated % of children, 1998	26.3%
Estimated number of children, 1991	12,332
% change in number of children, 1991-98	10.1%
Projected population, 2005	54,470
Projected number of children, 2005	14,140
(children defined as under 18)	

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Crow Wing County

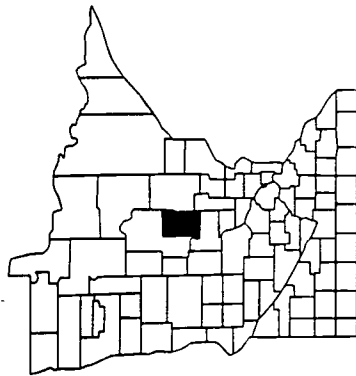


Crow Wing County is located in the north central portion of Minnesota and is the seventeenth largest county in Minnesota. The county seat is Brainerd. In 1996, Crow Wing County had a per capita personal income of \$20,244, which was ranked forty-eighth among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in 1997 were services, state and local government, and retail trade. Finances, insurance and real estate increased by almost fourteen percent from 1996 to 1997, making it the fastest growing industry. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 4.5%.

**Positives:** Close to average for several indicators of child well-being.

**Concerns:** Higher-than-average rates of school transfers and dropouts, and substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect.

**Trends to Watch:** Decrease in percentage of children receiving food stamps.



	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
<b>Family Economics</b>				
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	2,047	15%	1,417	10%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	2,984	33%	3,124	31%
<b>Starting Out</b>				
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	21	31	19	14
Children born at low birth weight	29	5%	33	5%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)	2,463	24%	2,546	25%
<b>Signs of Trouble</b>				
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	180	4%	217	4%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	149	34%	171	39%
Children abused and neglected	206	182	163	10,572
Children in out-of-home placements	175	204	174	18,858
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	5	0	5	171

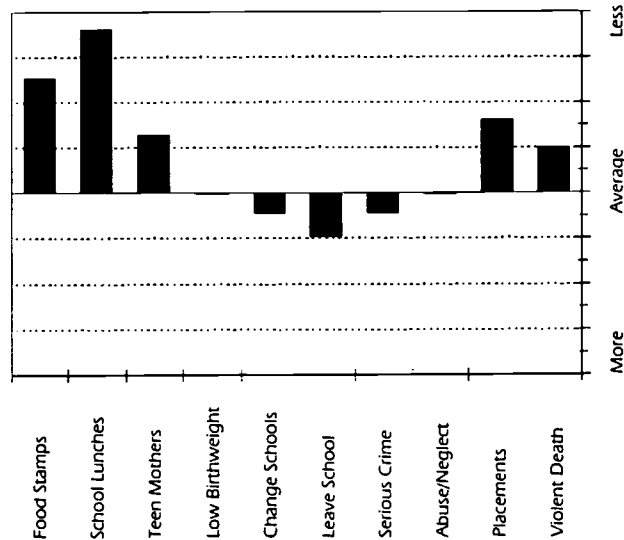
(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

# Dakota

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	342,528
Estimated number of children, 1998	98,629
Estimated % of children, 1998	28.8%
Estimated number of children, 1991	87,463
% change in number of children, 1991-98	12.8%
Projected population, 2005	380,410
Projected number of children, 2005	109,320
(children defined as under 18)	

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Dakota County



Compared to the Average County 1998  
(definitions for the data are on p. 125)

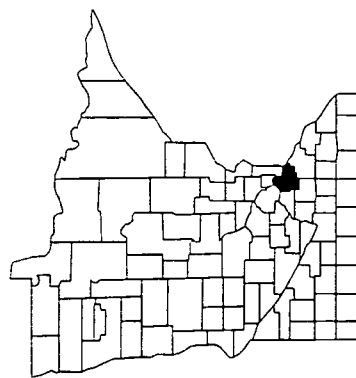
121

Dakota County is the third largest county in the state and is located in the southeastern portion of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Statistical Area. The county seat is Hastings. Its diverse population includes almost 4% of school children who speak languages other than English at home. In 1997, Dakota had a per capita personal income of \$28,361, the fourth highest in Minnesota. The largest industries in 1997 were services, non-durable goods manufacturing, and wholesale trade. Retail trade was also the fastest growing industry, increasing by just over 13% from 1996 to 1997. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 1.8%.

**Positives:** Lower-than-average percentage of children receiving food stamps and free/reduced-price school lunch, and out-of-home placements.

**Concerns:** None.

**Trends to Watch:** Decrease in teen birth rate.



	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
<b>Family Economics</b>				
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	6,292	9,485	3,848	4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	11%	14%	12%	12%
	5,618	8,106	147,791	11.8%
	222,938	26.3%		

## Starting Out

Children born to teenage mothers (a)	66	94	14	68	11	1,940	17.7
Children born at low birth weight	221	4%	287	6%	285	5%	3,806
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)		8,696	13%	9,952	14%	147,231	17.6%

## Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	681	3%	1,004	4%	936	3%	13,180	3.3%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	1,092	45%	1,241	49%	1,295	48%	18,416	46.8%
Children abused and neglected	585	561	685	10,572				
Children in out-of-home placements	805	830	840	18,858				
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	5	14	8	171				

(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

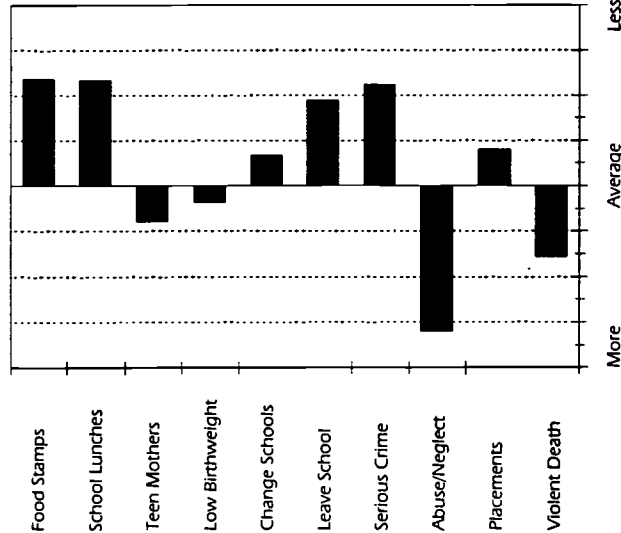
122

# Dodge

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	17,209
Estimated number of children, 1998	5,281
Estimated % of children, 1998	30.7%
Estimated number of children, 1991	5,113
% change in number of children, 1991-98	3.3%
Projected population, 2005	17,350
Projected number of children, 2005 (children defined as under 18)	5,160

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Dodge County



**Compared to the Average County 1998**  
(definitions for the data are on p. 125)

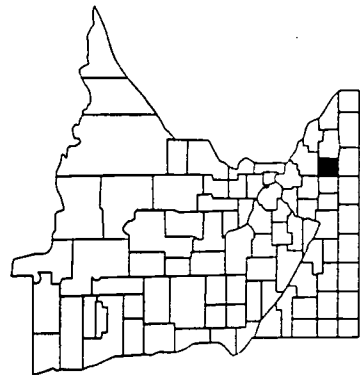
123

Dodge County is a mid-size county located in southeastern Minnesota. The county seat is Mantorville. Its per capita personal income was \$20,869 in 1997, which ranked the county thirty-sixth among all Minnesota counties. The largest industries in Dodge County in 1997 were durable goods manufacturing, state and local government, and farm. The county's fastest growing industry in 1997 was services, increasing by just over 11% since 1996. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 3.2%.

**Positives:** Lower-than-average percentage of children receiving food stamps and free/reduced-price school lunch, dropping out of school, and percentage of arrests of children for serious crime.

**Concerns:** Higher-than-average substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect.

**Trends to Watch:** Decreases in percentage of children receiving free/reduced-price lunches and food stamps.



	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
<b>Family Economics</b>				
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	440	8%	232	4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	767	20%	713	18%
<b>Starting Out</b>				
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	8	5	6	17
Children born at low birth weight	14	5%	14	6%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)	474	12%	460	12%
<b>Signs of Trouble</b>				
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	11	1%	16	1%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	17	55%	88	55%
Children abused and neglected	21	26	68	10,572
Children in out-of-home placements	40	64	59	18,858
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	3	0	2	171

(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

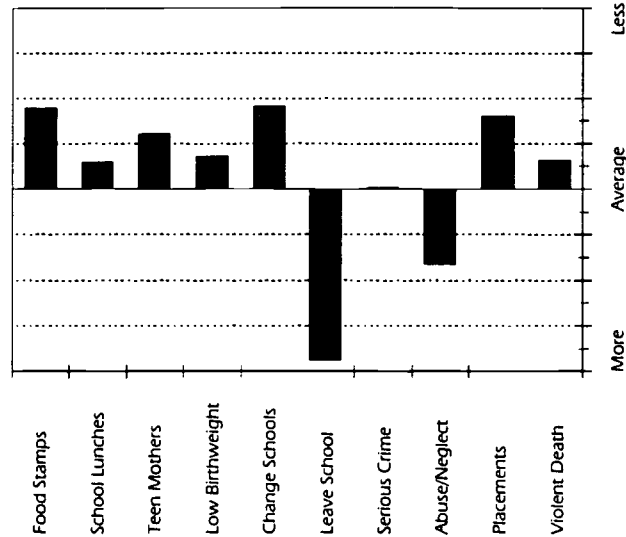
124

# Douglas

## Demographics

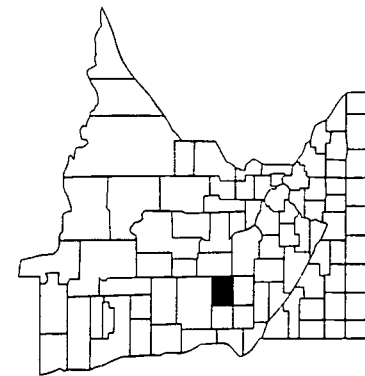
Estimated population, 1998	31,045
Estimated number of children, 1998	8,240
Estimated % of children, 1998	26.5%
Estimated number of children, 1991	7,928
% change in number of children, 1991-98	3.9%
Projected population, 2005	32,240
Projected number of children, 2005	8,640
(children defined as under 18)	

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Douglas County



Compared to the Average County 1998  
(definitions for the data are on p. 125)

125



Douglas County is moderately large county located in the west central part of the state. The county seat is Alexandria. Over 5% of students speak a language other than English at home. Douglas County had a 1997 per capita personal income of \$20,369, which ranked forty-fifth among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in 1997 were services, durable goods manufacturing, and state and local government. The fastest growing industry since 1996 was transportation and public utilities, which increased almost 15%. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 3%.

**Positives:** Lower-than-average percentages of children receiving food stamps, school transfers, and out-of-home placements.

**Concerns:** Higher-than-average percentage of children dropping out of school.

**Trends to Watch:** Decrease in teen birth rate.

	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
<b>Family Economics</b>				
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	1,757	632	502	147,791
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	28%	27%	27%	26.3%
<b>Starting Out</b>				
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	6	4	12	1,940
Children born at low birth weight	21	6%	18	3,806
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)		435	484	147,231
<b>Signs of Trouble</b>				
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	40	2%	157	13,180
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	107	45%	97	18,416
Children abused and neglected	155	86	82	10,572
Children in out-of-home placements	27	27	70	18,858
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0	0	0	171

(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

126

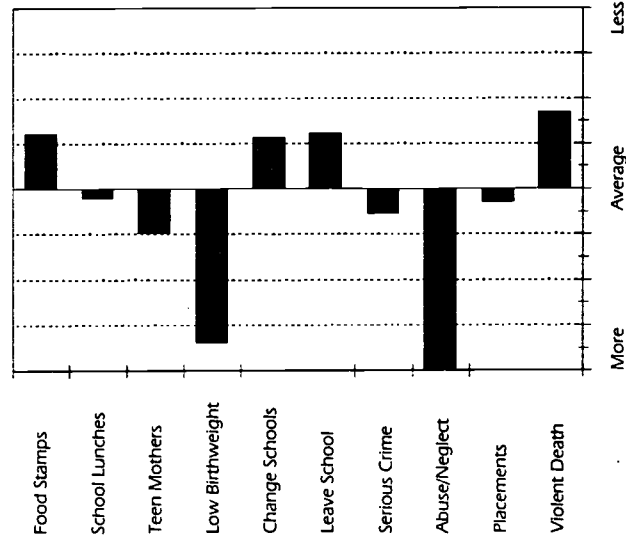


# Faribault

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	16,244
Estimated number of children, 1998	4,042
Estimated % of children, 1998	24.9%
Estimated number of children, 1991	4,580
% change in number of children, 1991-98	-11.7%
Projected population, 2005	15,280
Projected number of children, 2005	3,940
(children defined as under 18)	

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Faribault County



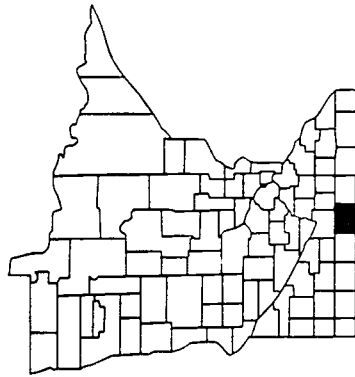
**Compared to the Average County 1998**  
(definitions for the data are on p. 125)

Faribault County is a mid-size county located in southern Minnesota on the Iowa border. The county seat is Blue Earth. Almost three percent of school children in Faribault County speak Spanish as their primary language at home. The per capita personal income of Faribault County in 1997 was \$20,882, which ranked thirty-fifth among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in 1996 were services, farm, and state and local. The fastest growing industry was durable goods manufacturing, which increased almost 11% between 1996 and 1997. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 3.5%.

**Positives:** Near to the average county for most indicators of child well-being.

**Concerns:** Higher-than-average rate of low birth-weight babies and substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect.

**Trends to Watch:** Decrease in percentage of children receiving food stamps.



## Family Economics

	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	456	11%	316	8%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	904	28%	844	31%
				222,938
				26.3%

## Starting Out

Children born to teenage mothers (a)	4	8	18	6	18	1,940	17.7
Children born at low birth weight	13	7%	8	5%	14	9%	3,806
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)	314	11%	290	10%	147,231	17.6%	

## Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	15	1%	21	1%	20	1%	13,180	3.3%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	37	52%	31	55%	19	49%	18,416	46.8%
Children abused and neglected	66		69		69		10,572	
Children in out-of-home placements	52		68		60		18,858	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	1	1	0		0		171	

(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

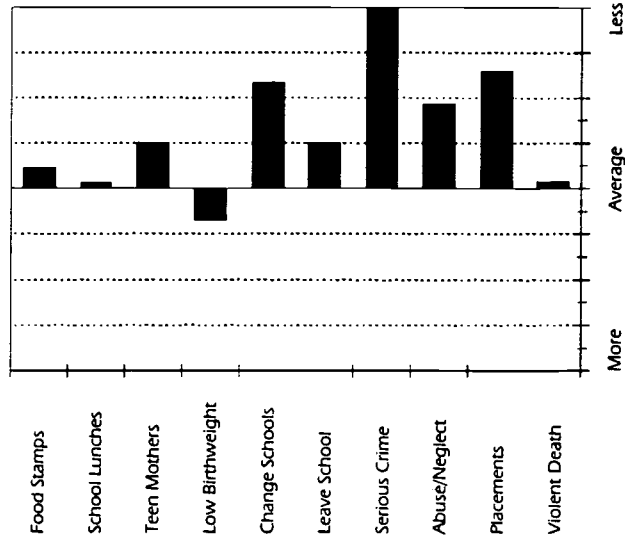


# Fillmore

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	20,793
Estimated number of children, 1998	5,552
Estimated % of children, 1998	26.7%
Estimated number of children, 1991	5,745
% change in number of children, 1991-98	-3.4%
Projected population, 2005	20,040
Projected number of children, 2005	5,330
(children defined as under 18)	

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Fillmore County



Compared to the Average County 1998  
(definitions for the data are on p. 125)

129

Fillmore County is a mid-size county located along the Iowa border in southeastern Minnesota. The county seat is Preston. In 1997, Fillmore County had a per capita personal income of \$19,305, which ranked fifty-fifth among Minnesota counties. Fillmore County's largest industries were farm, services, and state and local government. The industry experiencing the largest growth between 1996 and 1997 was wholesale trade, which increased by 15%. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 3%.

**Positives:** Lower-than-average rates of school transfers, substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect, out-of-home placements and percentage of arrests of children for serious crime.

**Concerns:** None.

**Trends to Watch:** Increase in percentage of children receiving food stamps.

## Family Economics

Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)

Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)

## Starting Out

Children born to teenage mothers (a)

Children born at low birth weight

Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)

## Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)

Children arrested for serious crimes (b)

Children abused and neglected

Children in out-of-home placements

Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries

	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	991	28%	395	7%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	991	28%	982	28%
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	9	6	17	11
Children born at low birth weight	9	3%	9	4%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)	211	6%	255	7%
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	20	1%	24	1%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	0	0%	11	34%
Children abused and neglected	30	36	19	19
Children in out-of-home placements	29	28	29	29
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0	2	1	171

(a) rates for 93-95, 95-96, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

130



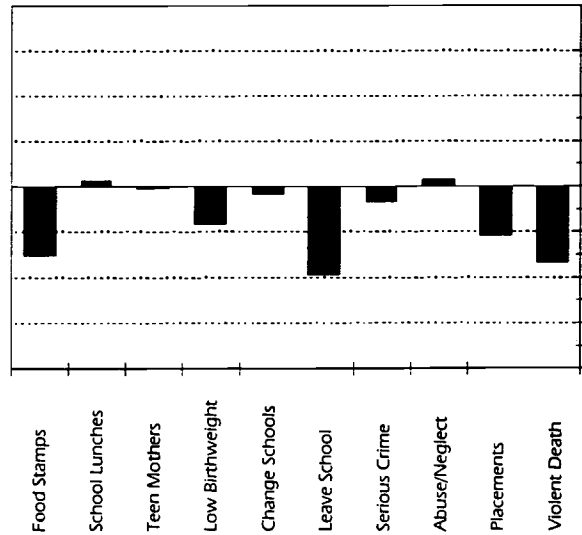


# Freeborn

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998 .....	31,584
Estimated number of children, 1998 .....	7,710
Estimated % of children, 1998 .....	24.4%
Estimated number of children, 1991 .....	8,912
% change in number of children, 1991-98 .....	-13.5%
Projected population, 2005 .....	31,030
Projected number of children, 2005 .....	7,490
(children defined as under 18)	

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children In Freeborn County



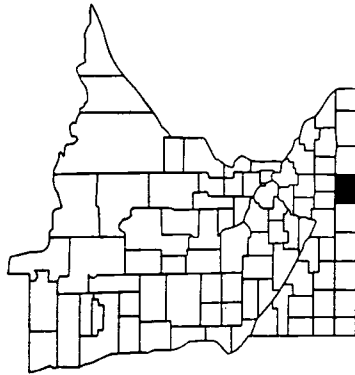
More Average Less  
**Compared to the Average County 1998**  
(definitions for the data are on p. 125)

Freeborn County is located in southeastern Minnesota along the Iowa border. The county seat is Preston. Almost 7% of students speak Spanish at home. It is the twenty-eighth largest county in the state. Freeborn County's per capita personal income was \$20,324, which ranked forty-sixth among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in 1997 were services, durable goods manufacturing, and retail trade. Durable goods manufacturing was the fastest growing industry, which increased 12% between 1996 and 1997. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 2.4%.

**Positives:** Close to average for most indicators of child well-being.

**Concerns:** Worse-than-average rate of children dropping out of school.

**Trends to Watch:** Increase in children receiving food stamps.



	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
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## Family Economics

Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)

Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	1,218	24%	1,539	31%	1,236	16%	147,791	11.8%
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## Starting Out

Children born to teenage mothers (a)	15	17	29	17	15	1,940	17.7	
Children born at low birth weight	32	8%	16	5%	21	6%	3,806	5.8%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)	672	13%	705	14%	147,231	17.6%		

## Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	108	4%	106	4%	97	4%	13,180	3.3%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	180	50%	286	64%	174	47%	18,416	46.8%
Children abused and neglected	101		73		51		10,572	
Children in out-of-home placements	110		123		135		18,858	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	2		3		3		171	

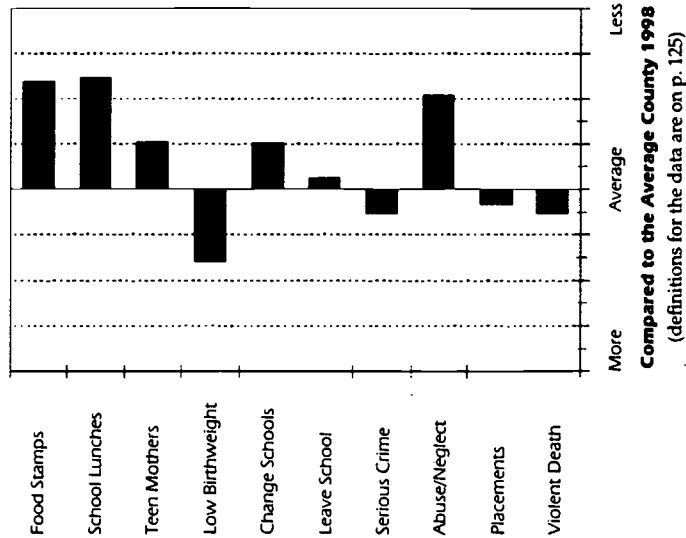
(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

# Goodhue

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	43,137
Estimated number of children, 1998	11,669
Estimated % of children, 1998	27.1%
Estimated number of children, 1991	11,614
% change in number of children, 1991-98	0.5%
Projected population, 2005	43,600
Projected number of children, 2005 (children defined as under 18)	11,810

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Goodhue County



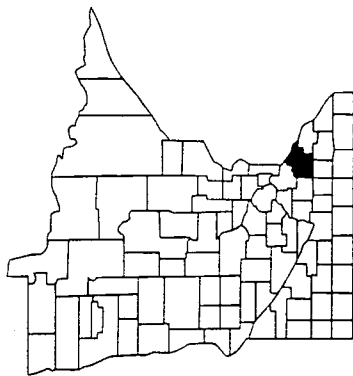
133

Goodhue County is located in southeastern Minnesota along the Mississippi River and the Wisconsin border. The county seat is Red Wing. It's the twentieth largest county in Minnesota. The Prairie Island Indian Reservation lies within its borders. Goodhue County had a 1997 per capita personal income of \$23,708, the thirteenth highest in the state. The largest industries in the county were services, non-durable goods manufacturing, and transportation and public utilities. The county experienced an almost 17% increase in the wholesale trade industry from 1996 to 1997. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 2.5%.

**Positives:** Lower-than-average percentage of children receiving food stamps and free/reduced-price school lunch, and substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect.

**Concerns:** Higher-than-average percentage of low birth weight babies.

**Trends to Watch:** Increasing number of children in out-of-home placements.



	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
<b>Family Economics</b>				
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	498	4%	506	4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	1,320	16%	1,398	17%
<b>Starting Out</b>				
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	10	10	13	11
Children born at low birth weight	21	4%	35	7%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)	1,029	11%	988	11%
<b>Signs of Trouble</b>				
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	79	2%	97	2%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	160	52%	143	49%
Children abused and neglected	85	75	35	10,572
Children in out-of-home placements	133	151	175	18,858
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	3	1	3	171

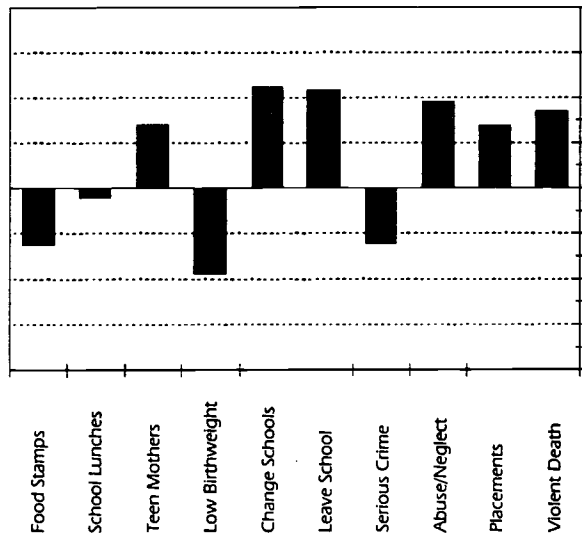
(a) rates for 93-95,95-97,96-98 (b) % of all arrests

# Grant

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998 .....	6,178
Estimated number of children, 1998 .....	1,514
Estimated % of children, 1998 .....	24.5%
Estimated number of children, 1991 .....	1,609
% change in number of children, 1991-98 .....	-5.9%
Projected population, 2005 .....	5,810
Projected number of children, 2005 .....	1,470
(children defined as under 18)	

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Grant County



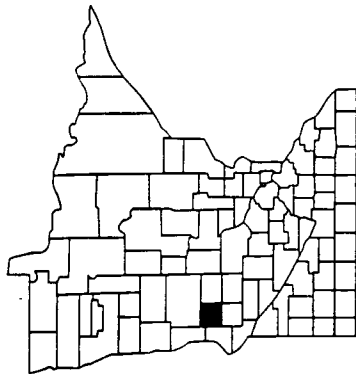
More Average Less  
**Compared to the Average County 1998**  
 (definitions for the data are on p. 125)

Grant County is the eighth smallest county in the state and is located in west central Minnesota. The county seat is Elbow Lake. In 1997, Grant had a per capita personal income of \$21,342, which was the twenty-seventh highest among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in the county in 1997 were services, farm, and construction. The greatest growth came from the wholesale trade industry, which increased by fourteen percent between 1996 and 1997. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 4.6%.

**Positives:** Close to or better than average county for most indicators of child well-being.

**Concerns:** Higher-than-average percentage of children born at low birth weight, although this could be affected by the small overall number of births in the county.

**Trends to Watch:** Increase in the percentage of children receiving food stamps.



## Family Economics

Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)

Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)

## Starting Out

Children born to teenage mothers (a)

Children born at low birth weight

Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)

## Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)

Children arrested for serious crimes (b)

Children abused and neglected

Children in out-of-home placements

Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries

	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	186	12%	230	15%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	463	33%	490	31%
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	0	1	0	10
Children born at low birth weight	1	2%	4	7%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)	146	9%	117	8%
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	5	1%	14	2%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	11	38%	17	74%
Children abused and neglected	2	12	5	10,572
Children in out-of-home placements	9	16	14	18,858
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0	0	0	171

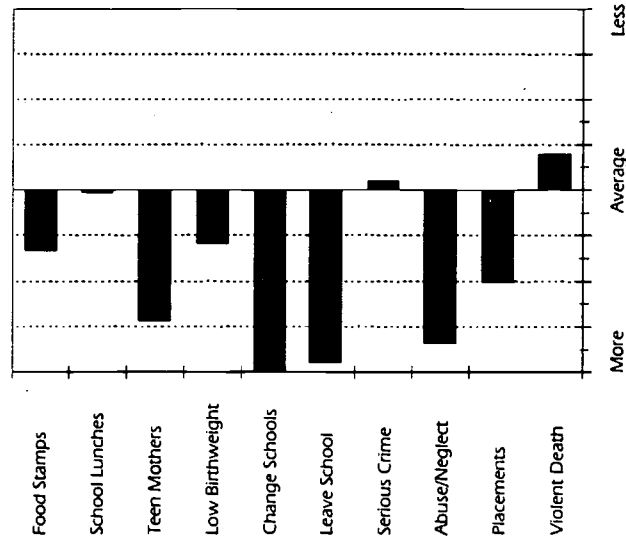
(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

# Hennepin

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	1,059,669
Estimated number of children, 1998	247,530
Estimated % of children, 1998	23.4%
Estimated number of children, 1991	246,930
% change in number of children, 1991-98	0.2%
Projected population, 2005	1,097,610
Projected number of children, 2005	255,540
(children defined as under 18)	

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Hennepin County



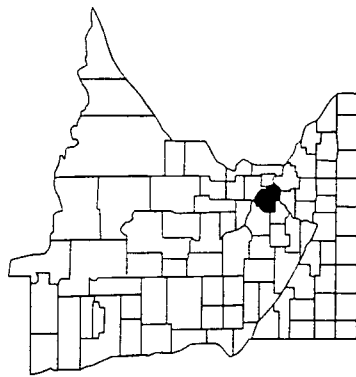
**Compared to the Average County 1998**  
(definitions for the data are on p. 125)

Hennepin County, part of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Statistical Area, is the largest county in the state. The county seat is Minneapolis. The county is ethnically and racially diverse, and 10.5% of students speak a language other than English at home. In 1997, it had a per capita personal income of \$35,667, the highest in the state. The county's largest industries were: services; finance, insurance, and real estate; and durable goods manufacturing. The fastest growing industry was transportation and public utilities, increasing by almost 14% between 1996 and 1997. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 1.9%.

**Positives:** Close to average for percentage of arrests of children for serious crime, child deaths and percentage of low birth-weight babies.

**Concerns:** Higher-than-average rates of dropping out of school and school transfers, teen births, substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect, and out-of-home placements.

**Trends to Watch:** Decreases in teen birth rate and children receiving food stamps.



	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
<b>Family Economics</b>				
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)		45,296	38,299	15%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	36,828	41,745	47,952	30%
<b>Starting Out</b>				
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	557	568	474	24
Children born at low birth weight	967	986	1,042	7%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)		29,008	38,349	25%
<b>Signs of Trouble</b>				
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	3,364	4,749	3,521	5%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	4,691	5,374	5,165	42%
Children abused and neglected	3,048	2,972	3,262	
Children in out-of-home placements	5,813	5,457	5,120	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	35	43	26	

(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

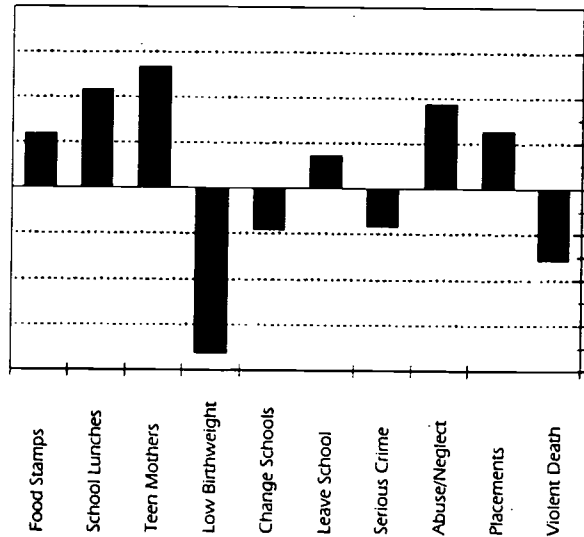
138

# Houston

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998 .....	19,267
Estimated number of children, 1998 .....	5,307
Estimated % of children, 1998 .....	27.5%
Estimated number of children, 1991 .....	5,325
% change in number of children, 1991-98 .....	-0.3%
Projected population, 2005 .....	19,520
Projected number of children, 2005 .....	5,300
(children defined as under 18)	

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Houston County



More Average Less  
Compared to the Average County 1998  
(definitions for the data are on p. 125)

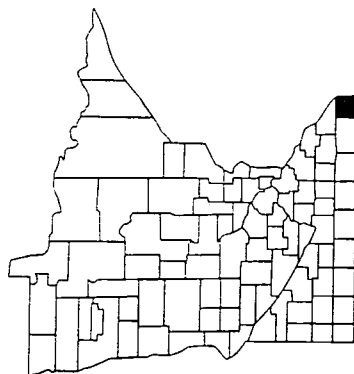
139

Houston County is a mid-size county located in the southeastern corner of Minnesota on the Iowa and Wisconsin borders. The county seat is Caledonia. It is considered part of the LaCrosse, Wisconsin, Metropolitan Statistical Area. In 1997, Houston County had a per capita personal income of \$21,180, which ranked thirtieth among Minnesota counties. Services, state and local government, and transportation and public utilities comprised the largest industries. Durable goods manufacturing was the fastest growing industry, increasing 24% between 1996 and 1997. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 2.6%.

**Positives:** Lower-than-average percentage of children receiving food stamps and free/reduced-price school lunch, teen births, and substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect.

**Concerns:** Higher-than-average percentage of children born at low birth weight, although this could be a single-year fluctuation.

**Trends to Watch:** Increase in out-of-home placements.



	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
<b>Family Economics</b>				
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	307	6%	420	8%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	774	20%	897	22%
<b>Starting Out</b>				
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	7	6	11	3
Children born at low birth weight	5	2%	7	3%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)	285	8%	567	16%
<b>Signs of Trouble</b>				
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	9	1%	18	1%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	1	4%	10	22%
Children abused and neglected	14	36	18	10,572
Children in out-of-home placements	24	30	51	18,858
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	1	0	2	171

(a) rates for 93-95,95-97,96-98 (b) % of all arrests

140

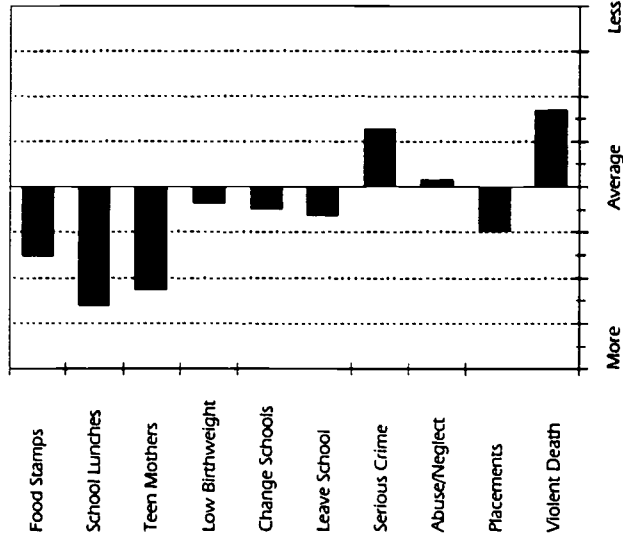


# Hubbard

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	16,935
Estimated number of children, 1998	4,379
Estimated % of children, 1998	25.9%
Estimated number of children, 1991	4,179
% change in number of children, 1991-98	4.8%
Projected population, 2005	17,900
Projected number of children, 2005	4,900
(children defined as under 18)	

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Hubbard County



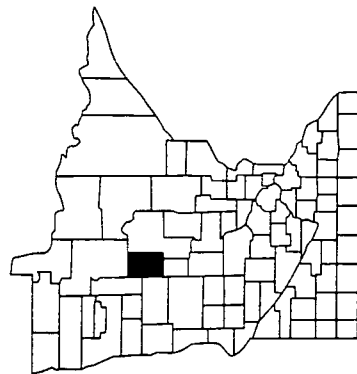
Compared to the Average County 1998  
(definitions for the data are on p. 125)

Hubbard County is a mid-size county located in the north central portion of the state. The county seat is Park Rapids. Portions of the Leech Lake Reservation are located in the county. In 1997, Hubbard County had a per capita personal income of \$17,367, the eleventh lowest in the state. Its largest industries were services, durable goods manufacturing, and state and local government. The fastest growing industry was transportation and public utilities, increasing by over 21% from 1996 to 1997. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 4.1%.

**Positives:** Close to the average county on several indicators of child well-being.

**Concerns:** Higher-than-average rate of teen births, percentage of children receiving food stamps and free/reduced-price school lunch.

**Trends to Watch:** Increase in percentage of children receiving food stamps.



## Family Economics

Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)

Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)

## Starting Out

Children born to teenage mothers (a)

Children born at low birth weight

Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)

## Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)

Children arrested for serious crimes (b)

Children abused and neglected

Children in out-of-home placements

Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries

	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	527	12%	701	16%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	1,073	39%	1,245	44%
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	6	5	12	22
Children born at low birth weight	7	4%	9	5%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)	374	13%	424	15%
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	34	3%	75	5%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	56	39%	44	33%
Children abused and neglected	62	47	29	10,572
Children in out-of-home placements	89	77	75	18,858
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0	2	0	171

(a) rates for 93-95/95-97/96-98 (b) % of all arrests

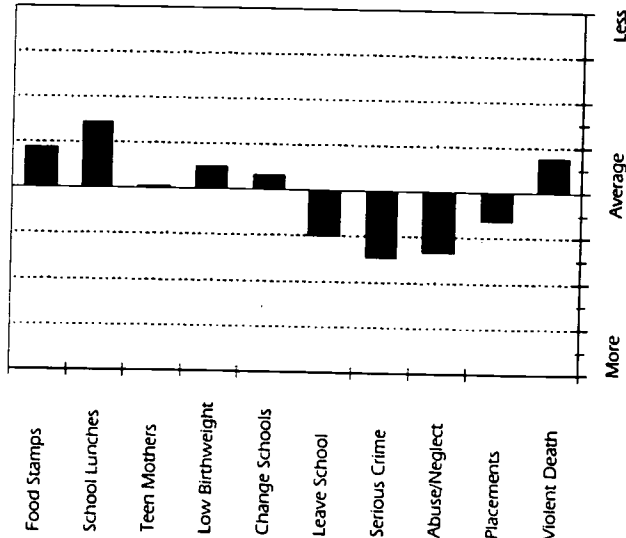


# Isanti

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	30,121
Estimated number of children, 1998	9,143
Estimated % of children, 1998	30.4%
Estimated number of children, 1991	8,324
% change in number of children, 1991-98	9.8%
Projected population, 2005	31,360
Projected number of children, 2005	9,550
(children defined as under 18)	

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Isanti County



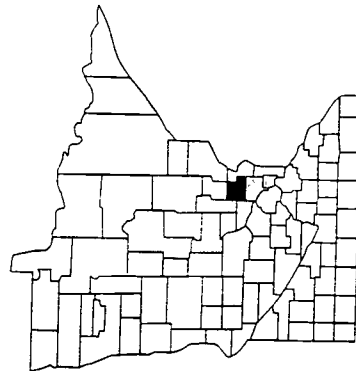
More Average Less  
Compared to the Average County 1998  
(definitions for the data are on p. 125)

Isanti County is a mid-size county located in east central Minnesota on the northern edge of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Statistical Area. The county seat is Cambridge. Isanti County's 1996 per capita personal income of \$20,322 ranked forty-seventh among Minnesota counties. Services, state and local government and durable goods manufacturing were the largest industries in 1997. The fastest growing industry was non-durable goods manufacturing, which increased by almost 10%. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 3.1%.

**Positives:** Close to the average county on most indicators of child well-being.

**Concerns:** Higher-than-average numbers of substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect and out-of-home placements.

**Trends to Watch:** Decrease in teen birth rate.



	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
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## Family Economics

Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)

Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)

## Starting Out

Children born to teenage mothers (a)

Children born at low birth weight

Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)

## Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)

Children arrested for serious crimes (b)

Children abused and neglected

Children in out-of-home placements

Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries

Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	492	6%	810	9%	147,791	11.8%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	1,352	25%	1,585	28%	1,367	23%
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	9	11	19	14	15	17.7
Children born at low birth weight	9	3%	20	6%	19	5%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)	734	13%	721	12%	147,231	17.6%
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	101	4%	183	7%	96	3%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	66	52%	54	43%	95	57%
Children abused and neglected	33	48	86	10,572		
Children in out-of-home placements	121	164	146	18,858		
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	4	2	1	171		

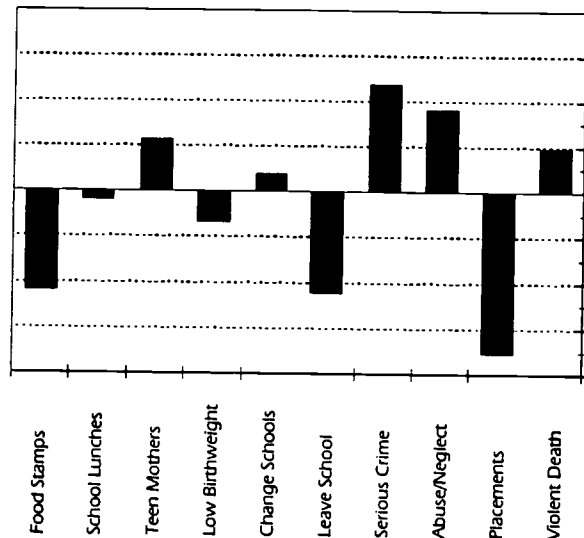
(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

# Itasca

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	43,857
Estimated number of children, 1998	11,678
Estimated % of children, 1998	26.6%
Estimated number of children, 1991	11,729
% change in number of children, 1991-98	-0.4%
Projected population, 2005	42,930
Projected number of children, 2005	11,370
(children defined as under 18)	

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Itasca County



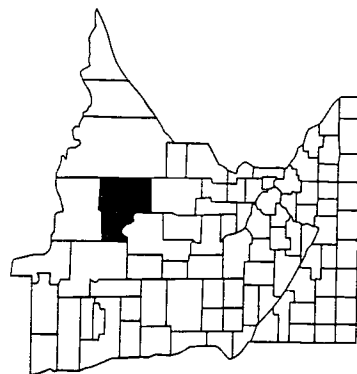
More Average Less  
Compared to the Average County 1998  
(definitions for the data are on p. 125)

Itasca County is a moderately large county located in the central section of northern Minnesota. The county seat is Grand Rapids. Part of Leech Lake Indian Reservation is within the county borders. Its per capita personal income of \$18,078 was the seventy-first among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in 1997 were services, state and local government, and non-durable goods manufacturing. The fastest growing industry was services, increasing by almost 16% between 1996 and 1997. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 6.4%.

**Positives:** Close to or better than the average county on many indicators of child well-being.

**Concerns:** Higher-than-average numbers of children receiving food stamps, dropping out of school and in out-of-home placements.

**Trends to Watch:** Increase in out-of-home placements.



## Family Economics

Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)

Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)

## Starting Out

Children born to teenage mothers (a)

Children born at low birth weight

Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)

## Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)

Children arrested for serious crimes (b)

Children abused and neglected

Children in out-of-home placements

Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries

	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)		1,355	11%	18%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	3,184	2,896	33%	31%
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	22	15	13	11
Children born at low birth weight	29	20	5%	6%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)		1,119	13%	12%
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	152	134	3%	4%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	17	47	52%	23%
Children abused and neglected	24	33	41	41
Children in out-of-home placements	206	294	300	300
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	3	1	1	1

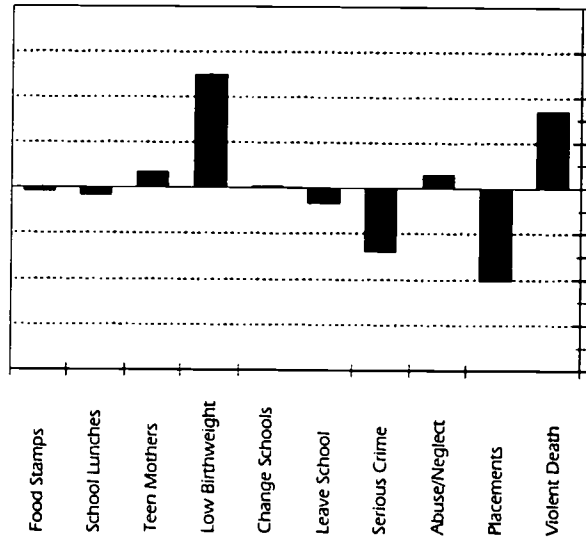
(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

# Jackson

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	11,529
Estimated number of children, 1998	3,006
Estimated % of children, 1998	26.1%
Estimated number of children, 1991	3,201
% change in number of children, 1991-98	-6.1%
Projected population, 2005	11,310
Projected number of children, 2005	3,050
(children defined as under 18)	

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Jackson County



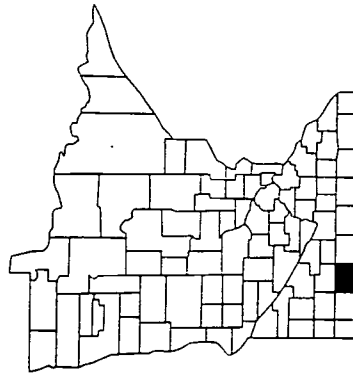
More Average Less  
Compared to the Average County 1998  
(definitions for the data are on p. 125)

Jackson County is a moderately small county located in southwestern Minnesota on the Iowa border. The county seat is Jackson. Five percent of Jackson County school children speak a language other than English at home — mostly Lao or Spanish. Jackson County's 1997 per capita personal income of \$19,135 ranked fifty-eighth. The largest industries in 1997 were durable goods manufacturing, state and local government, and farm. The fastest growing industry was wholesale trade, which increased 53% from 1996 to 1997. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 3%.

**Positives:** Close to or better than the average county for most indicators of child well-being.

**Concerns:** Higher-than-average percentage of children in out-of-home placements.

**Trends to Watch:** Increase in out-of-home placements.



## Family Economics

Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)

	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	693	204	352	12% 147,791 11.8%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	693	690	599	31% 222,938 26.3%

## Starting Out

Children born to teenage mothers (a)

	1	3	9	14	1,940	17.7
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	1	3	9	14	1,940	17.7

Children born at low birth weight

	5	4%	6	5%	3	3%	3,806	5.8%
Children born at low birth weight	5	4%	6	5%	3	3%	3,806	5.8%

Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)

	209	10%	259	13%	147,231	17.6%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)	209	10%	259	13%	147,231	17.6%

## Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)

	7	1%	27	3%	24	3%	13,180	3.3%
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	7	1%	27	3%	24	3%	13,180	3.3%

Children arrested for serious crimes (b)

	22	39%	14	40%	18	56%	18,416	46.8%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	22	39%	14	40%	18	56%	18,416	46.8%

Children abused and neglected

	12	17	19	10,572
Children abused and neglected	12	17	19	10,572

Children in out-of-home placements

	29	53	62	18,858
Children in out-of-home placements	29	53	62	18,858

Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries

	0	0	0	171
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0	0	0	171

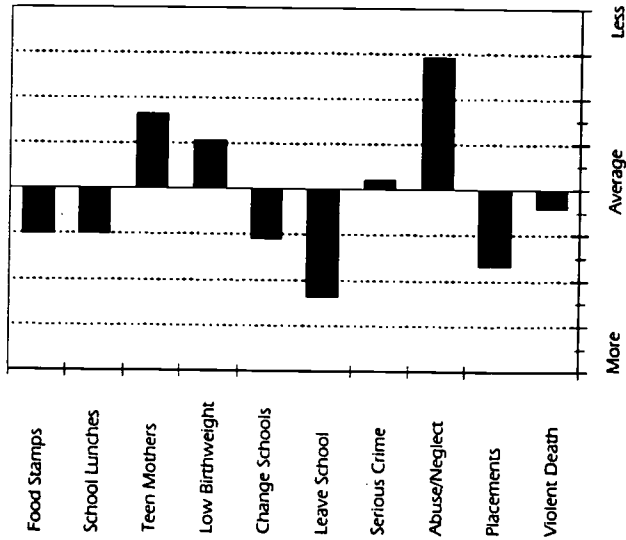
(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

# Kanabec

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998 .....	14,173
Estimated number of children, 1998 .....	4,123
Estimated % of children, 1998 .....	29.1%
Estimated number of children, 1991 .....	3,930
% change in number of children, 1991-98 .....	4.9%
Projected population, 2005 .....	13,820
Projected number of children, 2005 .....	4,040
(children defined as under 18)	

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Kanabec County



Compared to the Average County 1998  
(definitions for the data are on p. 125)

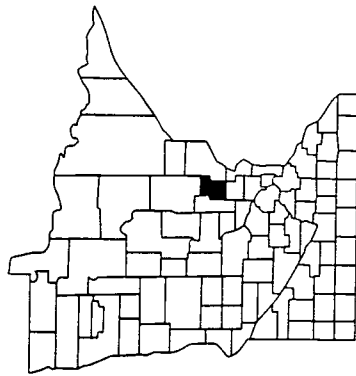
149

Kanabec County is a moderately small county located in east central. The county seat is Mora. In 1997, the county had a per capita personal income of \$16,432, which was the sixth lowest among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in the Kanabec County in 1997 were retail trade, state and local government, and construction. The fastest growing industry was durable goods manufacturing, which increased by 37% between 1996 and 1997. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 5.9%.

**Positives:** Lower-than-average rate of teen births and substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect.

**Concerns:** Higher-than-average percentage of children dropping out of school.

**Trends to Watch:** Increase in percentage of children receiving food stamps, decrease in teen birth rate.



## Family Economics

Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)

Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)

## Starting Out

Children born to teenage mothers (a)

Children born at low birth weight

Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)

## Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)

Children arrested for serious crimes (b)

Children abused and neglected

Children in out-of-home placements

Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries

	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	876	34%	597	14%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	967	34%	996	35%
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	6	9	6	9
Children born at low birth weight	15	10%	15	10%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)	433	15%	456	16%
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	42	4%	58	4%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	26	41%	56	42%
Children abused and neglected	9	27	6	10,572
Children in out-of-home placements	24	65	80	18,858
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	2	0	1	171

(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

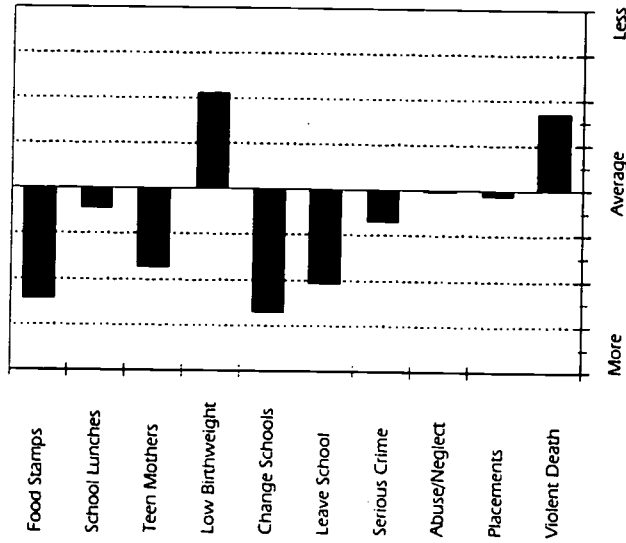
150

# Kandiyohi

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	41,086
Estimated number of children, 1998	11,736
Estimated % of children, 1998	28.6%
Estimated number of children, 1991	11,922
% change in number of children, 1991-98	-1.6%
Projected population, 2005	43,370
Projected number of children, 2005	12,500
(children defined as under 18)	

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Kandiyohi County



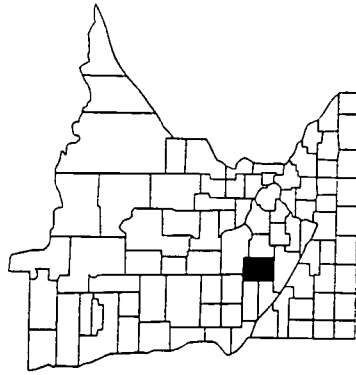
More  
Average  
Less  
Compared to the Average County 1998  
(definitions for the data are on p. 125)

Kandiyohi County is located in west central Minnesota and is the twenty-first largest county in the state. The county seat is Willmar. Eleven percent of school children speak Spanish at home. In 1997, Kandiyohi County had a per capita personal income of \$21,709, which ranked twenty-fourth in the state. In 1997, the largest industries in the county were services, state and local government, and retail trade. The fastest growing industry was durable goods manufacturing, which increased over 14% from 1996 to 1997. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 2.8%.

**Positives:** Lower-than-average percentage of low birth weight babies.

**Concerns:** Higher-than-average rates of children dropping out of school and school transfers.

**Trends to Watch:** Increase in the percentage of children receiving food stamps.



	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
<b>Family Economics</b>				
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	1,354	12%	2,198	19%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	2,409	33%	2,102	33%
<b>Starting Out</b>				
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	22	21	24	21
Children born at low birth weight	20	4%	16	3%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)	1,361	20%	1,337	20%
<b>Signs of Trouble</b>				
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	158	5%	123	4%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	269	53%	255	50%
Children abused and neglected	77	143	82	10,572
Children in out-of-home placements	148	140	168	18,858
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	6	2	0	171

(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

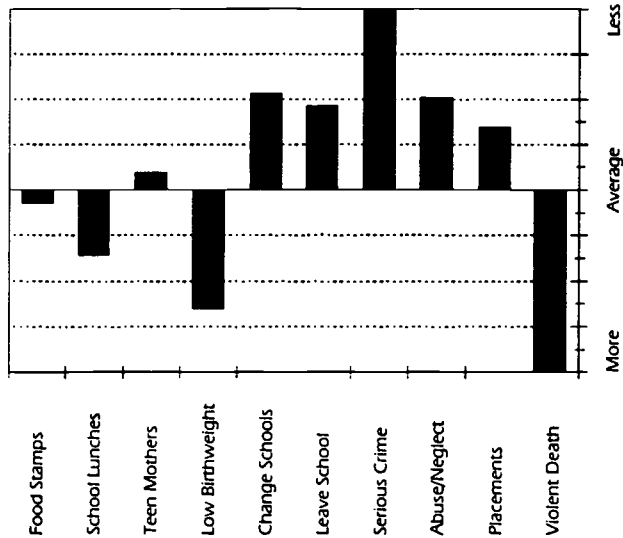


# Kittson

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	5,322
Estimated number of children, 1998	1,300
Estimated % of children, 1998	24.4%
Estimated number of children, 1991	1,506
% change in number of children, 1991-98	-13.7%
Projected population, 2005	5,170
Projected number of children, 2005 (children defined as under 18)	1,350

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Kittson County



**Compared to the Average County 1998**  
(definitions for the data are on p. 125)

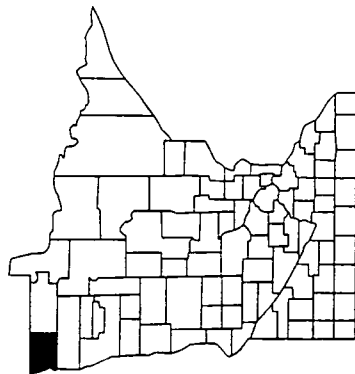
153

Kittson County is in the northwest corner of Minnesota, bordering North Dakota and Canada. The county seat is Hallock. It is the sixth smallest county in Minnesota. Kittson County's per capita personal income of \$19,140 ranked fifty-seventh among Minnesota counties. The county's largest industries in 1997 were services, state and local government, and retail trade. The fastest growing industry in the county was transportation and public utilities, increasing by almost 21% from 1996 to 1997. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 5.1%.

**Positives:** Lower-than-average percentage of school transfers and dropouts, substantiated reports of child abuse and out-of-home placements, and percentage of arrests of children for serious crimes.

**Concerns:** Higher-than-average rates of low birth weight babies and child deaths (possibly due to small overall numbers.)

**Trends to Watch:** Increase in percentage of children receiving food stamps.



## Family Economics

Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)

Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)

## Starting Out

Children born to teenage mothers (a)

Children born at low birth weight

Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)

## Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)

Children arrested for serious crimes (b)

Children abused and neglected

Children in out-of-home placements

Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries

	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	132	9%	160	12%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	385	34%	408	38%
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	0	2	15	14
Children born at low birth weight	1	2%	5	8%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)	42	3%	91	8%
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	2	0%	10	1%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	0	1	14%	0
Children abused and neglected	1	1	4	10,572
Children in out-of-home placements	4	7	12	18,858
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	1	2	1	171

(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

154

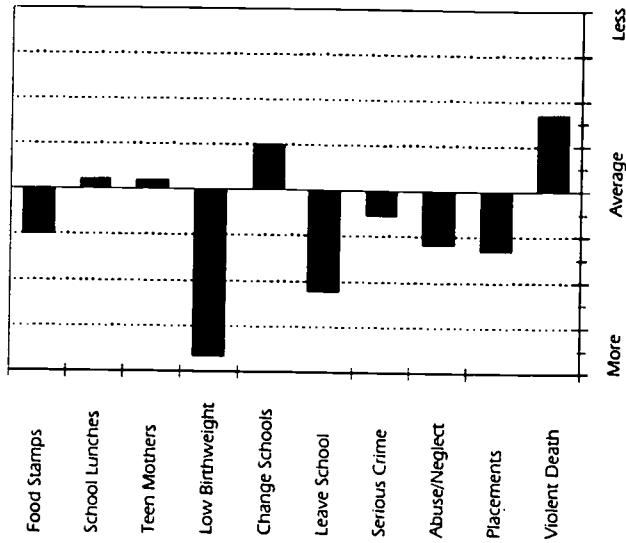


# Koochiching

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	15,538
Estimated number of children, 1998	3,733
Estimated % of children, 1998	24.0%
Estimated number of children, 1991	4,191
% change in number of children, 1991-98	-10.9%
Projected population, 2005	15,320
Projected number of children, 2005	3,280
(children defined as under 18)	

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Koochiching County



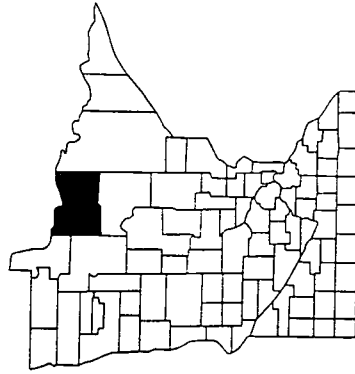
More Average Less  
**Compared to the Average County 1998**  
 (definitions for the data are on p. 125)

Koochiching County is a moderately small county located in northern Minnesota on the Canadian border. The county seat is International Falls. Part of the Boise Forte Indian Reservation lies within the county. In 1997, Koochiching County had a per capita personal income of \$18,988, ranked sixty-first in the state. The largest industries in 1997 were non-durable goods manufacturing, services, and state and local government. The fastest growing industry was durable goods manufacturing, which increased by almost 11%. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 6.7%.

**Positives:** Close to the average county for most indicators of child well-being.

**Concerns:** Higher-than-average percentage of children dropping out of school and low birth weight babies.

**Trends to Watch:** Increase in percentage of children receiving food stamps.



## Family Economics

	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)		380	9%	539
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	663	26%	727	30%
			732	29%
			222,938	26.3%

## Starting Out

Children born to teenage mothers (a)	7	5	13	5	14	1,940	17.7
Children born at low birth weight	8	4%	4	3%	16	9%	3,806
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)	288	11%	273	11%	147,231	17.6	

## Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	33	3%	57	4%	50	4%	13,180	3.3%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	91	59%	66	62%	92	49%	18,416	46.8%
Children abused and neglected	25	24	34				10,572	
Children in out-of-home placements	63	60	68				18,858	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	3	1	0				171	

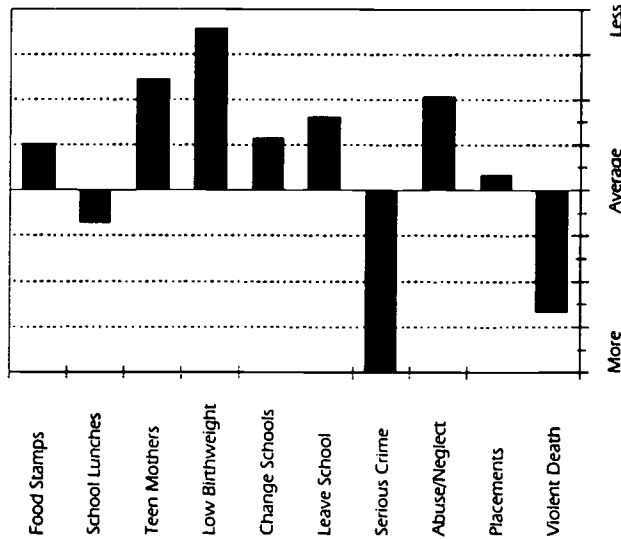
(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

# Lac Qui Parle

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	8,022
Estimated number of children, 1998	1,971
Estimated % of children, 1998	24.6%
Estimated number of children, 1991	2,326
% change in number of children, 1991-98	-15.3%
Projected population, 2005	7,850
Projected number of children, 2005	1,960
(children defined as under 18)	

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Lac Qui Parle County



Compared to the Average County 1998  
(definitions for the data are on p. 125)

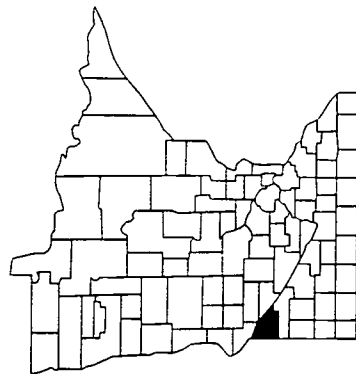
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Lac Qui Parle County is located in southwestern Minnesota on the South Dakota border next to the Minnesota River. The county seat is Madison. It is the twelfth smallest county in the state. Its 1997 per capita personal income of \$20,139 ranked forty-ninth among Minnesota counties. Lac Qui Parle County's largest industries in 1997 were farm, state and local government, and services. Wholesale trade showed the largest increase between 1996 and 1997, increasing at a rate of almost 11%. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 2.7%.

**Positives:** Lower-than-average rates of teen births and low birth weight babies, school transfers and dropouts, and substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect.

**Concerns:** Higher-than-average arrests of children for serious crimes. (This may be due to a low number of adult arrests.)

**Trends to Watch:** Increase in percentage of children receiving food stamps.



## Family Economics

Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)

Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)

## Starting Out

Children born to teenage mothers (a)

Children born at low birth weight

Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)

## Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)

Children arrested for serious crimes (b)

Children abused and neglected

Children in out-of-home placements

Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries

	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	107	5%	165	8%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	599	33%	697	34%
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	2	1	6	1
Children born at low birth weight	1	1%	4	5%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)	154	8%	220	10%
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	1	0%	4	0%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	0	4	80%	9
Children abused and neglected	4	23	6	10,572
Children in out-of-home placements	15	26	25	18,858
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0	0	1	171

(a) rates for 93-95,95-97,96-98 (b) % of all arrests

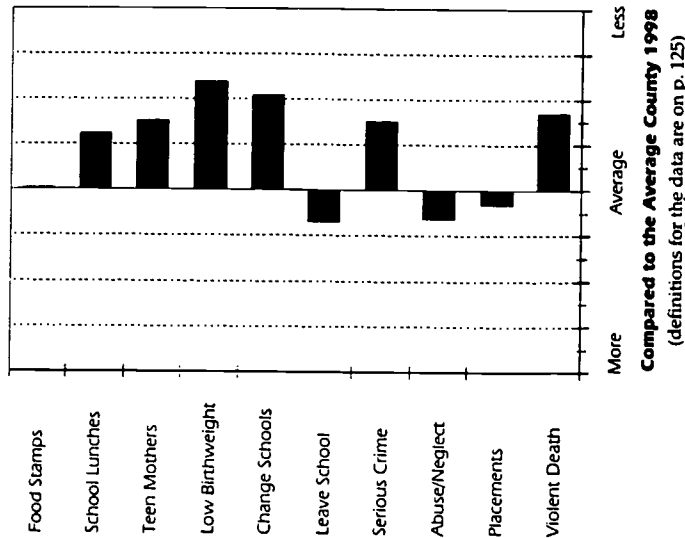
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# Lake

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	10,566
Estimated number of children, 1998	2,351
Estimated % of children, 1998	22.3%
Estimated number of children, 1991	2,542
% change in number of children, 1991-98	-7.5%
Projected population, 2005	10,420
Projected number of children, 2005	2,350
(children defined as under 18)	

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Lake County



Lake County is a moderately small county located in northeastern Minnesota on the North Shore of Lake Superior. The county seat is Two Harbors. It is the eighteenth smallest county in Minnesota. Its 1997 per capita personal income of \$19,342, fifty-fourth among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in 1997 were mining, durable goods manufacturing, and state and local government. The fastest growing industry was retail trade, which increased by over 8% from 1996 to 1997. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 4%.

**Positives:** Lower-than-average percentages of teen births and low birth weight babies, school transfers, and arrests of children for serious crime.

**Concerns:** None.

**Trends to Watch:** Increase in percentage of children receiving food stamps.

	1991	1995	1998	1998 State				
Family Economics								
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	178	7%	267	11%	147,791	11.8%		
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	586	27%	554	25%	506	24%	222,938	26.3%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	0	3	20	4	10	1,940	17.7	
Children born at low birth weight	5	4%	8	8%	3	3%	3,806	5.8%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)	453	21%	172	8%	147,231	17.6%		
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	11	1%	25	2%	30	3%	13,180	3.3%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	7	44%	11	55%	13	31%	18,416	46.8%
Children abused and neglected	12	14	19	10,572				
Children in out-of-home placements	37	45	35	18,858				
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0	2	0	171				

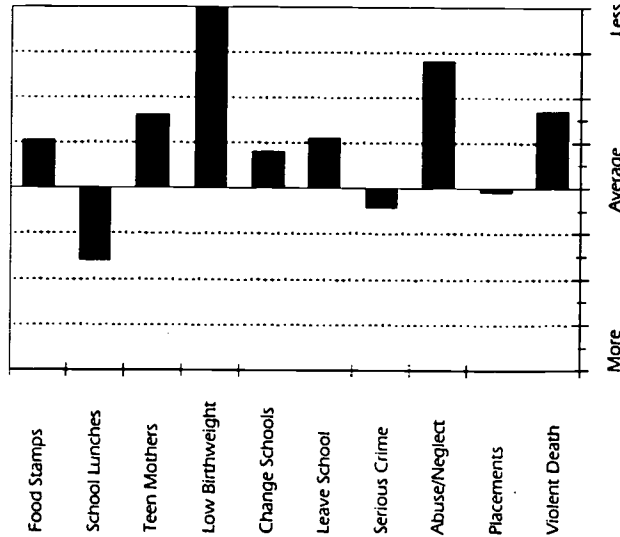
(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

# Lake of the Woods

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	4,563
Estimated number of children, 1998	1,202
Estimated % of children, 1998	26.3%
Estimated number of children, 1991	1,177
% change in number of children, 1991-98	2.2%
Projected population, 2005	4,470
Projected number of children, 2005	1,120
(children defined as under 18)	

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Lake of the Woods County



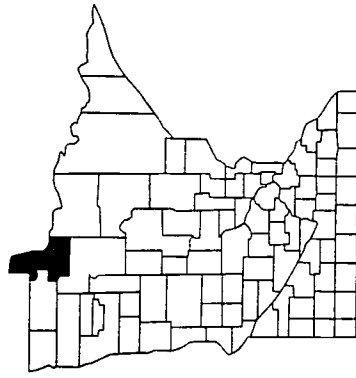
Compared to the Average County 1998  
(definitions for the data are on p. 125)

Lake of the Woods County is located in northern Minnesota on the Canadian border. The county seat is Baudette. It is the third smallest county in Minnesota. Portions of the Red Lake Indian Reservation are located in the county. In 1997, Lake of the Woods County had a per capita personal income of \$18,995, which ranked sixtieth among counties in Minnesota. The largest industries in 1997 were services, non-durable goods manufacturing, and state and local government. The fastest growing industry from 1996 to 1997 was transportation and public utilities, which increased by 10%. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 3.9%.

Positives: Lower-than-average rates of teen births and low birth weight babies, and substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect.

Concerns: None.

Trends to Watch: Increase in children receiving food stamps.



## Family Economics

Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)

Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)

## Starting Out

Children born to teenage mothers (a)

Children born at low birth weight

Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)

## Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)

Children arrested for serious crimes (b)

Children abused and neglected

Children in out-of-home placements

Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries

	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	45	4%	100	8%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	316	41%	350	42%
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	1	2	19	0
Children born at low birth weight	4	7%	2	4%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)	73	9%	96	11%
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	7	2%	0	6
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	2	17%	7	33%
Children abused and neglected	4	12	2	10
Children in out-of-home placements	13	9	17	18,858
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0	0	0	171

(a) rates for 93-95,95-97,96-98 (b) % of all arrests

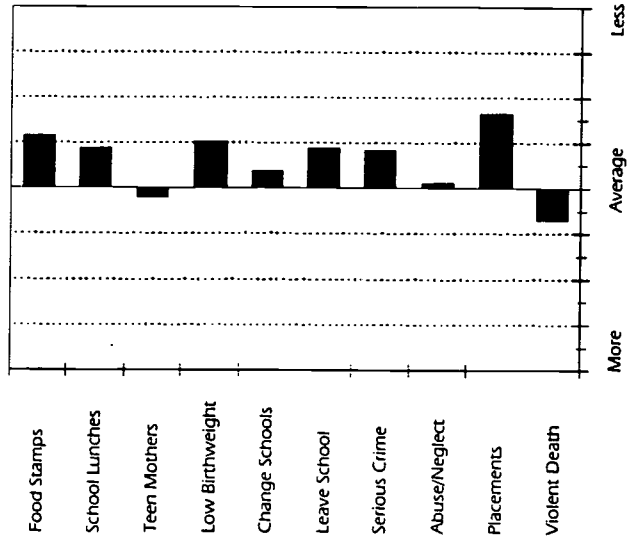
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# Le Sueur

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	25,320
Estimated number of children, 1998	7,160
Estimated % of children, 1998	28.3%
Estimated number of children, 1991	6,971
% change in number of children, 1991-98	2.7%
Projected population, 2005	25,300
Projected number of children, 2005	7,320
(children defined as under 18)	

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Le Sueur County



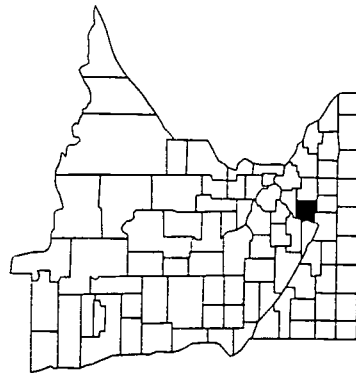
Compared to the Average County 1998  
(definitions for the data are on p. 125)

Le Sueur County is a mid-size county in south central Minnesota. The county seat is Le Center. Almost 6% of county school children speak Spanish at home. Le Sueur County's 1997 per capita personal income of \$20,851 ranked thirty-seventh among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in the county were durable goods manufacturing, services, and non-durable goods manufacturing. The fastest growing industry in the county was durable goods manufacturing, which increased by over 11% from 1996 to 1997. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 3.2%.

**Positives:** Close to the average county for most indicators of child well-being.

**Concerns:** None.

**Trends to Watch:** Indicators do not show clear trends for the county.



## Family Economics

Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)

Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)

## Starting Out

Children born to teenage mothers (a)

Children born at low birth weight

Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)

## Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)

Children arrested for serious crimes (b)

Children abused and neglected

Children in out-of-home placements

Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries

	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)		456	572	8%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	1,029	1,493	1,314	26%
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	9	10	10	16
Children born at low birth weight	20	20	13	4%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)		565	621	12%
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	25	1%	42	2%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	16	23%	29	59%
Children abused and neglected	44	36	48	18,416
Children in out-of-home placements	41	58	60	10,572
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	1	1	2	171

(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

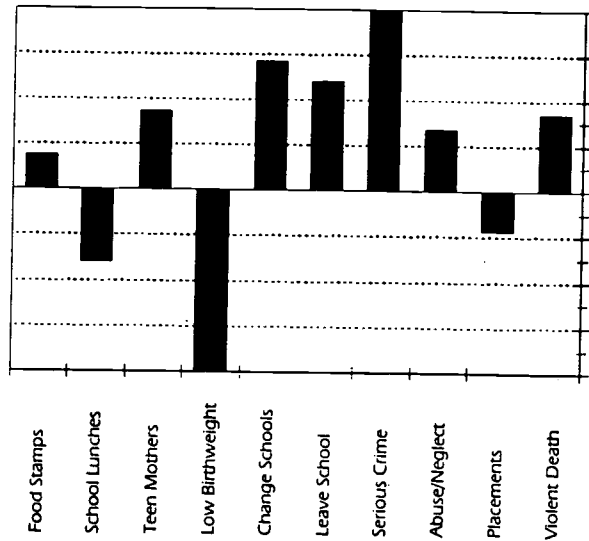


# Lincoln

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998 .....	6,459
Estimated number of children, 1998 .....	1,610
Estimated % of children, 1998 .....	24.9%
Estimated number of children, 1991 .....	1,789
% change in number of children, 1991-98 .....	-10.0%
Projected population, 2005 .....	6,130
Projected number of children, 2005 .....	1,550
(children defined as under 18)	

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Lincoln County



More Average Less  
**Compared to the Average County 1998**  
 (definitions for the data are on p. 125)

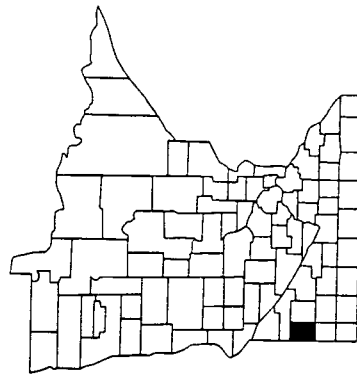
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Lincoln County, the ninth smallest county in the state, is located in southwestern Minnesota on the South Dakota border. The county seat is Ivanhoe. Its 1996 per capita personal income of \$16,185 was the fifth lowest among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in Lincoln County in 1997 were services, state and local government, and transportation and public utilities. The county's fastest growing sector was services, increasing by 9% from 1996 to 1997. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 3.1%.

**Positives:** Lower-than-average percentage of school transfers and dropouts, teen births, and percentage of arrests of children for serious crime.

**Concerns:** Higher-than-average percentage of low birth weight babies. This could be a single-year fluctuation due to the low total number of births.

**Trends to Watch:** Increase in the percentage of children receiving food stamps.



	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
<b>Family Economics</b>				
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	97	6%	149	9% 147,791 11.8%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	428	38%	449	40% 395 222,938 26.3%
<b>Starting Out</b>				
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	2	2	6	1 9 1,940 17.7
Children born at low birth weight	1	2%	3	5% 7 12% 3,806 5.8%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)	54	5%	63	6% 147,231 17.6%
<b>Signs of Trouble</b>				
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	5	1%	5	1% 3 0% 13,180 3.3%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	0	0	0	0 18,416 46.8%
Children abused and neglected	8	11	7	10,572
Children in out-of-home placements	8	6	27	18,858
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0	0	0	171

(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

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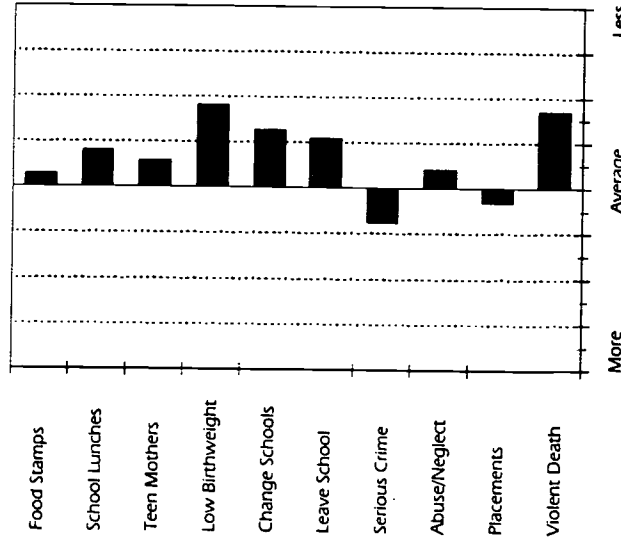


# Lyon

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	24,339
Estimated number of children, 1998	6,706
Estimated % of children, 1998	27.6%
Estimated number of children, 1991	6,835
% change in number of children, 1991-98	-1.9%
Projected population, 2005	25,850
Projected number of children, 2005	7,650
(children defined as under 18)	

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Lyon County



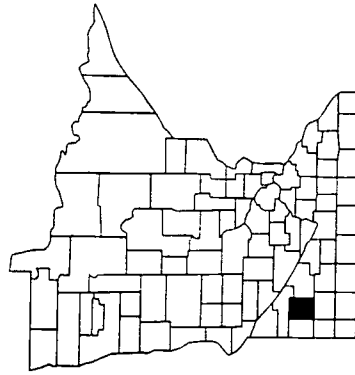
Compared to the Average County 1998  
(definitions for the data are on p. 125)

Lyon County is a mid-size county located in southwestern Minnesota. The county seat is Marshall. About six percent of school children speak Spanish at home. In 1997, Lyon County had a per capita personal income of \$22,532, which ranked sixteenth in the state. The largest industries in the county in 1997 were non-durable goods manufacturing, state and local government, and services. The fastest growing industry from 1996 to 1997 was finance, insurance and real estate, increasing by over 11%. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 2.5%.

**Positives:** Better than or close to the average county for most indicators of child well-being.

**Concerns:** None.

**Trends to Watch:** Increase in percentage of children receiving food stamps.



	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
<b>Family Economics</b>				
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	518	8%	710	11%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	1,513	28%	1,245	26%
<b>Starting Out</b>				
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	8	15	22	13
Children born at low birth weight	4	1%	12	3%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)	554	11%	494	10%
<b>Signs of Trouble</b>				
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	38	2%	39	1%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	116	51%	67	51%
Children abused and neglected	41	48	41	10,572
Children in out-of-home placements	105	98	100	18,858
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	2	2	0	171

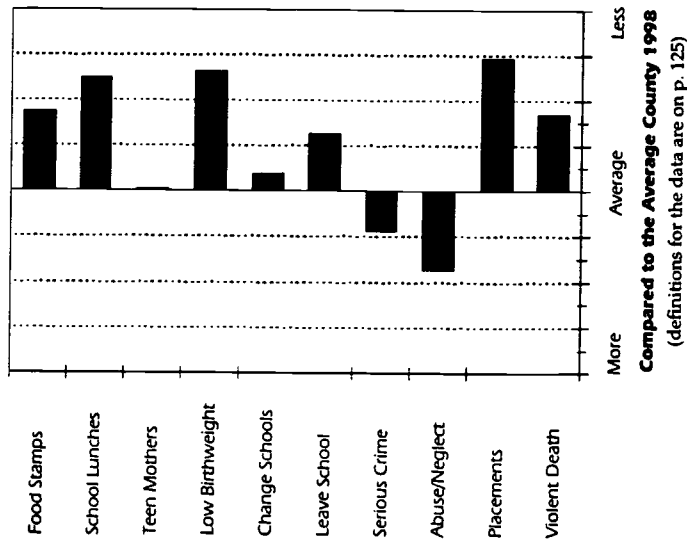
(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

# McLeod

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	34,017
Estimated number of children, 1998	9,570
Estimated % of children, 1998	28.1%
Estimated number of children, 1991	9,489
% change in number of children, 1991-98	0.9%
Projected population, 2005	36,100
Projected number of children, 2005	10,570
(children defined as under 18)	

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in McLeod County

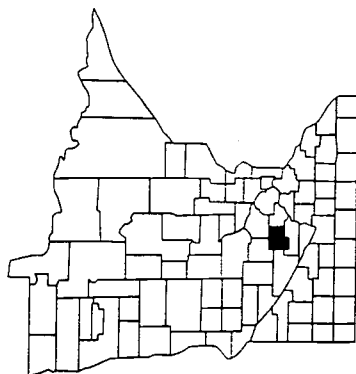


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McLeod County is located in the south central portion of the state and is the twenty-fifth largest county. The county seat is Glencoe. Almost 4% of students in the county speak Spanish at home. The county's per capita personal income was \$23,711, the twelfth largest in the state. Its largest industries in 1997 were durable goods manufacturing, non-durable goods manufacturing and state and local government. Non-durable goods manufacturing was the fastest growing industry, increasing by 16% from 1996 to 1997. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 2.7%.

**Positives:** Lower-than-average percentages of children receiving food stamps and free/reduced-price school lunch, low birth weight babies, school dropouts, and out-of-home placements.

**Concerns:** Higher-than-average substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect. **Trends to Watch:** Increase in the percentage of children receiving food stamps.



	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
<b>Family Economics</b>				
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)		398	4%	596
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	857	17%	1,098	17%
		974	18%	222,938
			6%	147,791
				11.8%
				26.3%
<b>Starting Out</b>				
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	7	13	15	13
Children born at low birth weight	13	3%	34	7%
			11	2%
				3,806
				5.8%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)	803	13%	783	12%
				147,231
				17.6%
<b>Signs of Trouble</b>				
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	77	3%	126	4%
			42	1%
				13,180
				3.3%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	154	49%	150	57%
			128	52%
				18,416
				46.8%
Children abused and neglected	113	104	97	10,572
Children in out-of-home placements	55	37	39	18,858
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	4	2	0	171

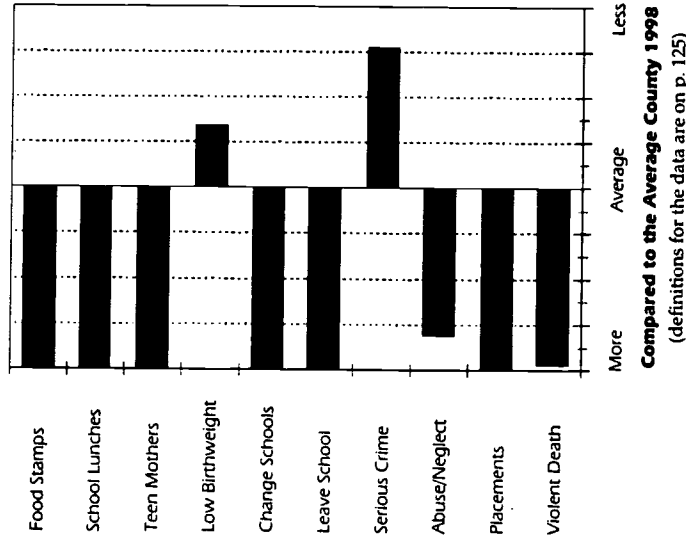
(a) rates for 93-95,95-97,96-98 (b) % of all arrests

# Mahnomen

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	5,077
Estimated number of children, 1998	1,543
Estimated % of children, 1998	30.4%
Estimated number of children, 1991	1,587
% change in number of children, 1991-98	-2.8%
Projected population, 2005	4,980
Projected number of children, 2005	1,580
(children defined as under 18)	

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Mahnomen County

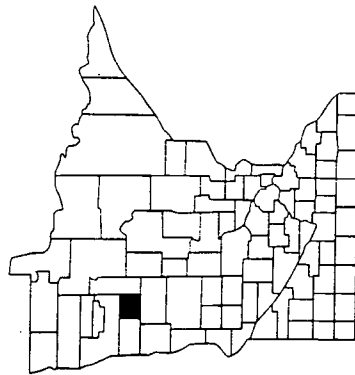


Mahnomen County is located in northwestern Minnesota and is the fifth smallest county in the state. The county seat is Mahnomen. Much of the White Earth Indian Reservation is located in the county. The county's 1997 personal per capita income was \$15,276, third lowest in the state. The largest industries in 1997 were services, state and local government, and construction. The fastest growing industry was transportation and public utilities, increasing almost 6% between 1996 and 1997. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 8.5%.

**Positives:** Close-to-average percentage of children born at low birth weight.

**Concerns:** Higher-than-average percentage of children receiving food stamps and free/reduced-price school lunch, teen births, school transfers and dropouts, substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect, and out-of-home placements.

**Trends to Watch:** Increase in the teen birth rate.



	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
<b>Family Economics</b>				
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)		408	25%	147,791
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	1,109	1,170	68%	222,938
<b>Starting Out</b>				
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	2	6	31	1,940
Children born at low birth weight	3	5	7%	3,806
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)		398	26%	147,231
<b>Signs of Trouble</b>				
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	6	72	10%	13,180
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	2	3	30%	18,416
Children abused and neglected	29	30		10,572
Children in out-of-home placements	59	80		18,858
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	1	1	1	171

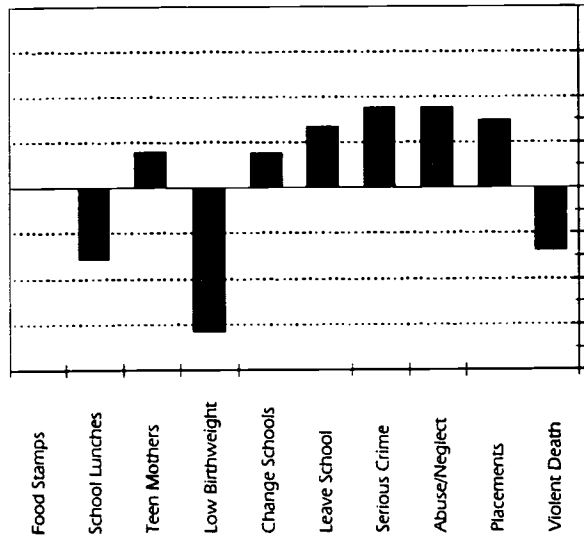
(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

# Marshall

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	10,313
Estimated number of children, 1998	2,807
Estimated % of children, 1998	27.2%
Estimated number of children, 1991	3,185
% change in number of children, 1991-98	-11.9%
Projected population, 2005	10,120
Projected number of children, 2005	2,790
(children defined as under 18)	

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Marshall County



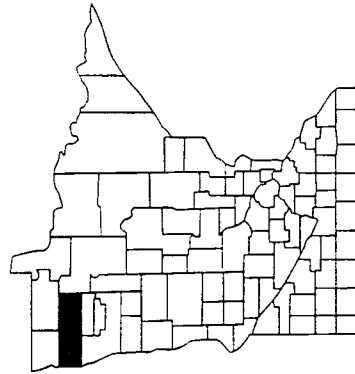
Compared to the Average County 1998  
(definitions for the data are on p. 125)

Marshall County is the eighteenth smallest county in Minnesota, located along the North Dakota border in the northwest corner of the state. The county seat is Warren. Over 5% of students in the county speak Spanish at home. Marshall County's 1997 per capita personal income of \$18,414 ranked sixty-seventh among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in the county were state and local government, farm, and services. The fastest growing industry was durable goods manufacturing, which increased by over 11% from 1996 to 1997. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 8.6%.

**Positives:** Close to the average county for most indicators of child well-being.

**Concerns:** Higher-than-average rate of low birth weight babies. This could be a single-year fluctuation linked to a small number of overall births.

**Trends to Watch:** Percentage of babies born at low birth weight.



## Family Economics

Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)

Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)

## Starting Out

Children born to teenage mothers (a)

Children born at low birth weight

Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)

## Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)

Children arrested for serious crimes (b)

Children abused and neglected

Children in out-of-home placements

Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries

	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	248	8%	322	11%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	987	41%	716	36%
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	2	6	12	5
Children born at low birth weight	9	7%	5	4%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)	233	12%	218	11%
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	6	1%	13	1%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	16	53%	3	17%
Children abused and neglected	12	22	10	29%
Children in out-of-home placements	16	27	25	18,858
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0	2	1	171

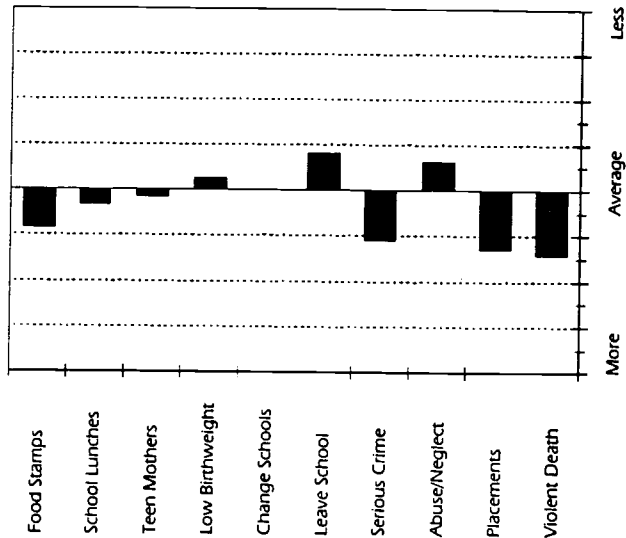
(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

# Martin

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	21,984
Estimated number of children, 1998	5,556
Estimated % of children, 1998	25.3%
Estimated number of children, 1991	6,173
% change in number of children, 1991-98	-10.0%
Projected population, 2005	21,840
Projected number of children, 2005	5,290
(children defined as under 18)	

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Martin County



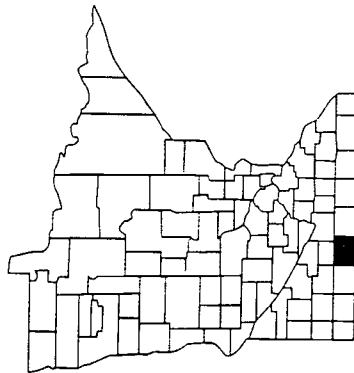
Compared to the Average County 1998  
(definitions for the data are on p. 125)

Martin County is a mid-size county located in south central Minnesota on the Iowa border. The county seat is Fairmont. In 1997, Martin County had a per capita personal income of \$23,044, which ranked fifteenth among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in Martin County were farm, services, and durable goods manufacturing. The fastest growing industry in the county between 1996 and 1997 was wholesale trade, which increased by more than 9%. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 3.2%.

**Positives:** Near the average county for most indicators of child well-being.

**Concerns:** None.

**Trends to Watch:** Increases in school transfers and percentage of children receiving food stamps.



	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
<b>Family Economics</b>				
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	588	10%	777	14%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	1,387	31%	1,319	32%
<b>Starting Out</b>				
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	12	11	10	15
Children born at low birth weight	13	4%	12	5%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)	430	10%	543	13%
<b>Signs of Trouble</b>				
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	24	1%	47	2%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	56	41%	82	54%
Children abused and neglected	28	79	32	10,572
Children in out-of-home placements	59	95	101	18,858
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0	1	2	171

(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

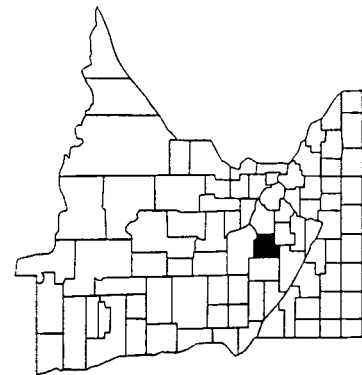
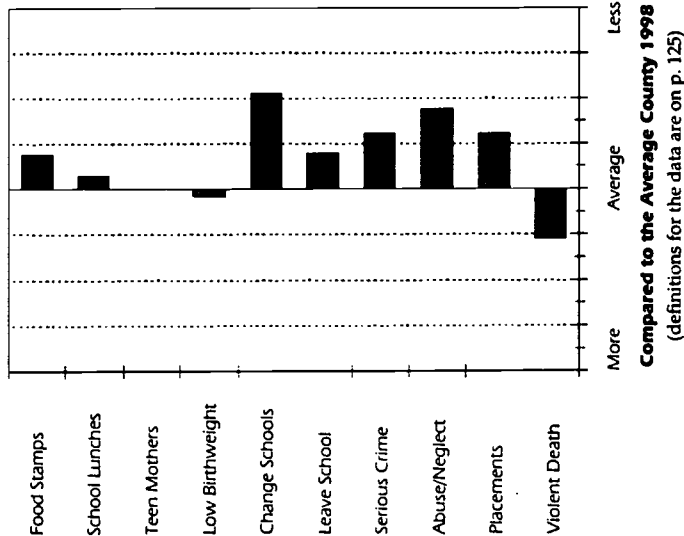


# Meeker

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	21,735
Estimated number of children, 1998	6,147
Estimated % of children, 1998	28.3%
Estimated number of children, 1991	6,279
% change in number of children, 1991-98	-2.1%
Projected population, 2005	21,340
Projected number of children, 2005 (children defined as under 18)	5,980

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Meeker County



Meeker County is a mid-size county in central Minnesota. The county seat is Litchfield. The 1997 per capita personal income in Meeker County was \$19,251, ranking fifty-sixth among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in 1997 were durable goods manufacturing, state and local government, and services. Durable goods manufacturing was the fastest growing industry in the county, increasing by almost 25% between 1996 and 1997. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 4.8%.

**Positives:** Lower-than-average number of school transfers and substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect.

**Concerns:** None.

**Trends to Watch:** Increase in percentage of children receiving food stamps.

## Family Economics

Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)

Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)

## Starting Out

Children born to teenage mothers (a)

Children born at low birth weight

Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)

## Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)

Children arrested for serious crimes (b)

Children abused and neglected

Children in out-of-home placements

Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries

	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	321	5%	564	9%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	1,578	27%	1,812	29%
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	6	8	12	15
Children born at low birth weight	7	16	16	6%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)	502	8%	497	8%
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	31	1%	53	2%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	10	20%	48	33%
Children abused and neglected	11	7	22	10,572
Children in out-of-home placements	54	73	60	18,858
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	3	1	2	171

(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

178

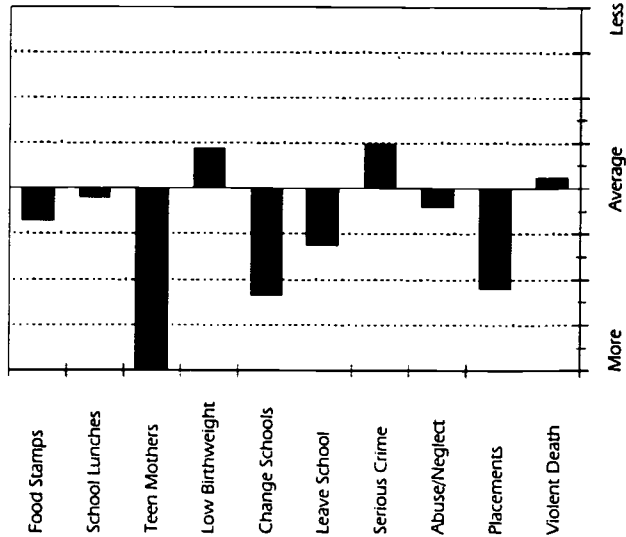


# Mille Lacs

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	21,044
Estimated number of children, 1998	5,884
Estimated % of children, 1998	28.0%
Estimated number of children, 1991	5,584
% change in number of children, 1991-98	5.4%
Projected population, 2005	21,220
Projected number of children, 2005	5,650
(children defined as under 18)	

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Mille Lacs County



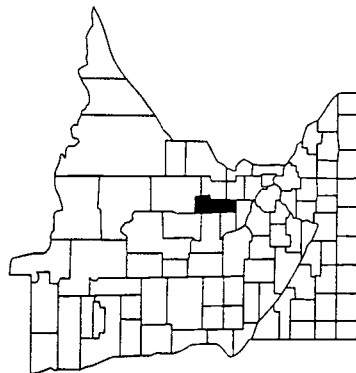
Compared to the Average County 1998  
(definitions for the data are on p. 125)

Mille Lacs County is a mid-size county located in east central Minnesota. The county seat is Milaca. The Mille Lacs Indian Reservation is located within the county borders. Its 1997 per capita income of \$17,893 was fourteenth lowest among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in 1997 were services, durable goods manufacturing, and state and local government. The fastest growing industry was durable goods manufacturing, increasing by over 10% from 1996 to 1997. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 6.1%.

**Positives:** Close to the average county on many indicators of child well-being.

**Concerns:** Higher-than-average teen birth rate, school transfers, and out-of-home placements.

**Trends to Watch:** Increases in teen birth rate and school transfers.



## Family Economics

Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)

Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)

## Starting Out

Children born to teenage mothers (a)

Children born at low birth weight

Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)

## Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)

Children arrested for serious crimes (b)

Children abused and neglected

Children in out-of-home placements

Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries

	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	758	13%	804	14%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	2,009	35%	1,942	31%
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	14	10	16	30
Children born at low birth weight	11	4%	13	4%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)	885	15%	1218	19%
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	42	2%	99	3%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	53	47%	82	35%
Children abused and neglected	84	63	45	10,572
Children in out-of-home placements	98	119	125	18,858
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0	5	1	171

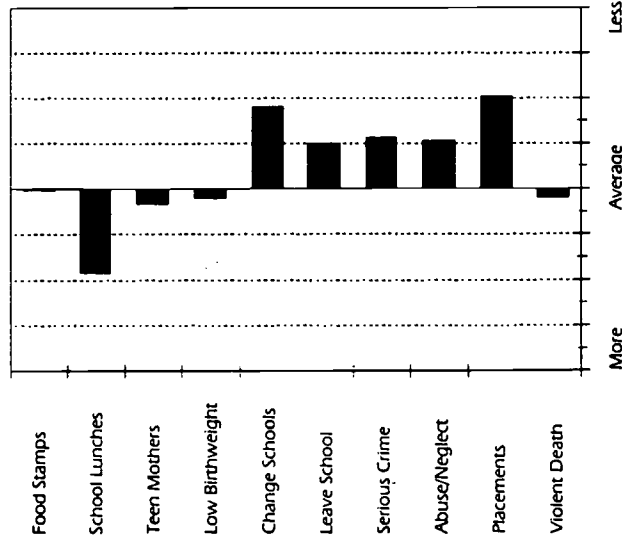
(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

# Morrison

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	30,543
Estimated number of children, 1998	9,198
Estimated % of children, 1998	30.1%
Estimated number of children, 1991	9,333
% change in number of children, 1991-98	-1.4%
Projected population, 2005	31,190
Projected number of children, 2005	9,340
(children defined as under 18)	

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Morrison County



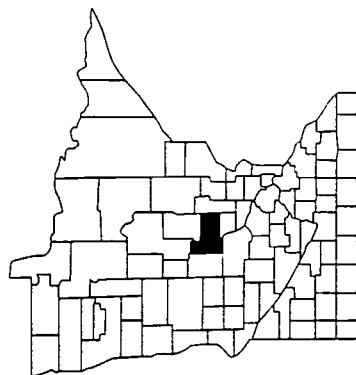
Compared to the Average County 1998  
(definitions for the data are on p. 125)

Morrison County is a moderately large county located in central Minnesota. The county seat is Little Falls. The county's 1997 per capita personal income was \$16,563, ranking eighth lowest among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in 1997 in the county were services, state and local government, and durable goods manufacturing. An almost 12% increase in durable goods manufacturing made it the fastest growing industry in Morrison County between 1996 and 1997. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 5.4%.

Positives: Better than or close to the average county on most indicators of child well-being.

Concerns: None.

Trends to Watch: Increase in children born at low birth weight.



## Family Economics

Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)

Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)

## Starting Out

Children born to teenage mothers (a)

Children born at low birth weight

Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)

## Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)

Children arrested for serious crimes (b)

Children abused and neglected

Children in out-of-home placements

Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries

	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	881	9%	1060	12%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	3,063	45%	2,807	40%
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	8	12	16	16
Children born at low birth weight	13	3%	15	4%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)	565	9%	532	9%
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	36	1%	28	1%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	45	42%	36	43%
Children abused and neglected	45	53	45	45
Children in out-of-home placements	61	75	65	65
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	3	2	2	2

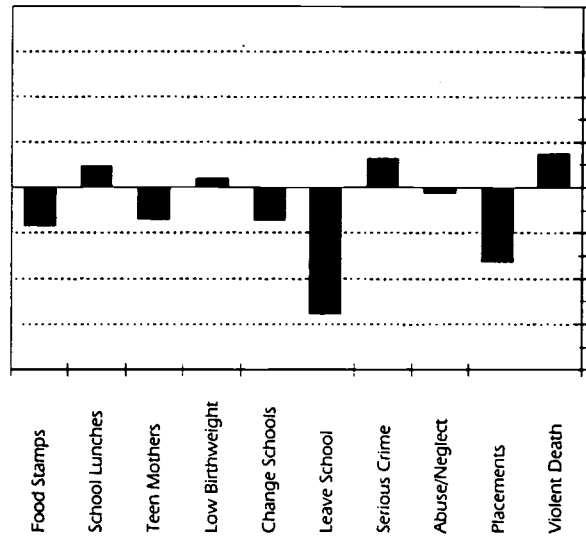
(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

# Mower

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	37,039
Estimated number of children, 1998	9,115
Estimated % of children, 1998	24.6%
Estimated number of children, 1991	9,685
% change in number of children, 1991-98	-5.9%
Projected population, 2005	36,790
Projected number of children, 2005 (children defined as under 18)	9,150

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Mower County



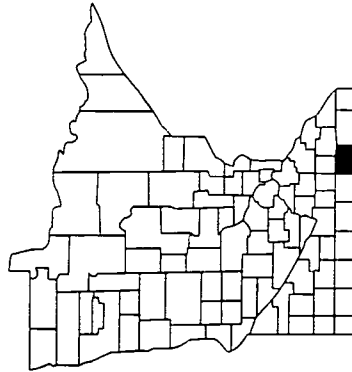
Compared to the Average County 1998  
(definitions for the data are on p. 125)

Mower County is located in southeastern Minnesota on the Iowa border. The county seat is Austin. It is the twenty-fourth largest county in the state, and almost 4% of students speak a language other than English than home. The county's 1997 per capita personal income of \$23,951 was the ninth largest among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in 1997 were non-durable goods manufacturing, services, and state and local government. Construction was the fastest growing industry between 1996 and 1997, increasing by close to 12%. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 2%.

**Positives:** Close to the average county for most indicators of child well-being.

**Concerns:** Higher-than-average school dropout rate.

**Trends to Watch:** Increase in children receiving food stamps.



	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
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## Family Economics

Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)

1,052	11%	1,279	14%	147,791	11.8%
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Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)

1,677	27%	1,946	28%	222,938	26.3%
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## Starting Out

Children born to teenage mothers (a)

26	14	25	20	17	1,940	17.7
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Children born at low birth weight

26	5%	22	5%	24	5%	3,806	5.8%
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Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)

835	14%	914	15%	147,231	17.6%
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## Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)

95	4%	148	5%	130	4%	13,180	3.3%
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Children arrested for serious crimes (b)

146	49%	178	63%	143	38%	18,416	46.8%
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	--------	-------

Children abused and neglected

54	66	65	10,572
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Children in out-of-home placements

96	137	176	18,858
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Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries

2	1	1	171
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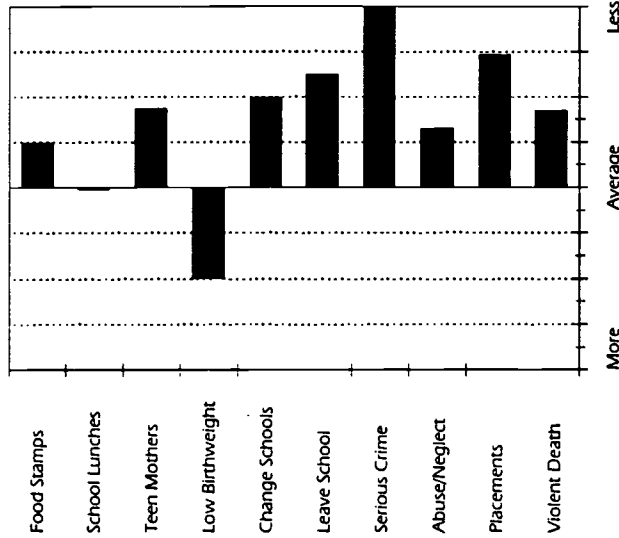
(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

# Murray

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	9,517
Estimated number of children, 1998	2,458
Estimated % of children, 1998	25.8%
Estimated number of children, 1991	2,633
% change in number of children, 1991-98	-6.6%
Projected population, 2005	8,870
Projected number of children, 2005 (children defined as under 18)	2,250

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Murray County



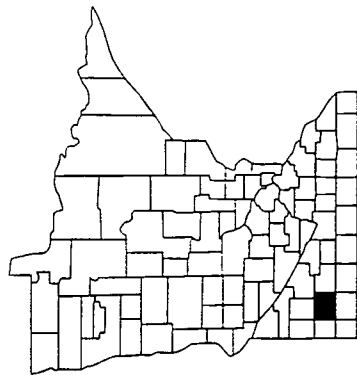
Compared to the Average County 1998  
(definitions for the data are on p. 125)

Murray County is located in the southwestern corner of Minnesota. The county seat is Slayton. It is the fourteenth smallest county in the state. Murray County had a per capita personal income of \$18,796 in 1997, which ranked sixty-fourth among Minnesota counties. Murray County's largest industries in 1997 were farm, services, and state and local government. The fastest growing industry in the county was wholesale trade, which increased almost 13% between 1996 and 1997. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 3.9%.

**Positives:** Lower-than-average teen birth rate, percentage of school transfers and dropouts, out-of-home placements, and percentage of arrests of children for serious crime.

**Concerns:** Higher-than-average percentage of low birth weight babies.

**Trends to Watch:** Increase in low birth weight births.



## Family Economics

	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	111	4%	210	9%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	415	28%	461	30%
			222,938	26.3%

## Starting Out

Children born to teenage mothers (a)	1	7	1	9	1,940	17.7
Children born at low birth weight	3	2%	4	4%	7	8%
					3,806	5.8%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)	127	8%	128	8%	147,231	17.6%

## Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	2	0%	4	1%	3	0%
					13,180	3.3%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	0	0	0	0	18,416	46.8%
Children abused and neglected	8	9	11		10,572	
Children in out-of-home placements	16	10	10		18,858	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0	0	0		171	

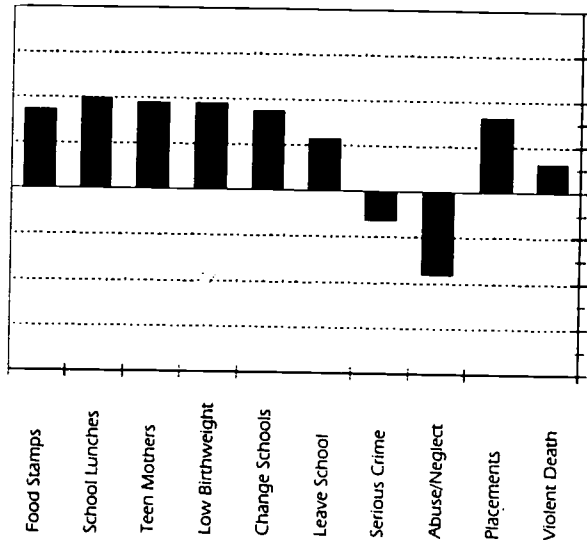
(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

# Nicollet

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	29,600
Estimated number of children, 1998	8,240
Estimated % of children, 1998	27.8%
Estimated number of children, 1991	7,517
% change in number of children, 1991-98	9.6%
Projected population, 2005	31,640
Projected number of children, 2005	9,230
(children defined as under 18)	

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Nicollet County



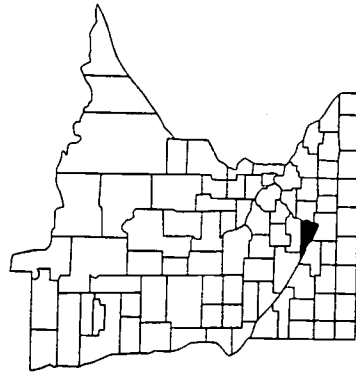
More Average Less  
**Compared to the Average County 1998**  
 (definitions for the data are on p. 125)

Nicollet County, located along the Minnesota River, is a moderately large county located in south central Minnesota. The county seat is St. Peter. Nicollet County's per capita personal income of \$22,068 ranked twenty-second in the state. The largest industries in 1997 were non-durable goods manufacturing, services, and state and local government. A 29% increase in wholesale trade made it the fastest growing industry in the county between 1996 and 1997. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 1.6%.

**Positives:** Lower-than-average percentage of children receiving food stamps and free/reduced-price school lunch, teen births, low birth weight babies, school transfers and out-of-home placements.

**Concerns:** None.

**Trends to Watch:** Decrease in the teen birth rate.



	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
<b>Family Economics</b>				
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	371	5%	518	6%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	582	23%	468	20%
<b>Starting Out</b>				
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	6	7	6	8
Children born at low birth weight	18	5%	11	3%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)	189	8%	210	9%
<b>Signs of Trouble</b>				
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	20	2%	18	1%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	122	53%	65	50%
Children abused and neglected	249	84	85	10,572
Children in out-of-home placements	79	93	69	18,858
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	1	1	1	171

(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

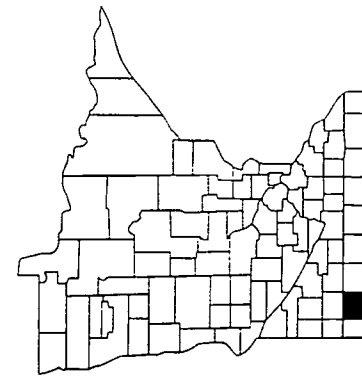
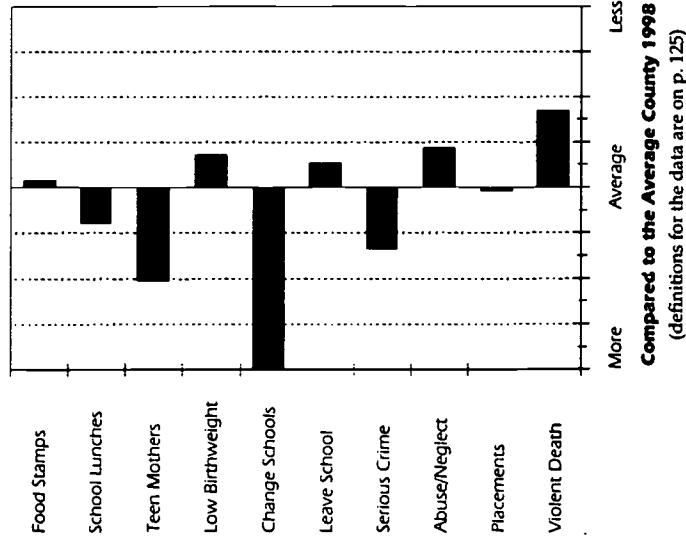


# Nobles

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	19,312
Estimated number of children, 1998	4,941
Estimated % of children, 1998	25.6%
Estimated number of children, 1991	5,442
% change in number of children, 1991-98	-9.2%
Projected population, 2005	20,610
Projected number of children, 2005	5,770
(children defined as under 18)	

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Nobles County



Nobles County is a mid-size county located in southwestern Minnesota on the Iowa border. The county seat is Worthington. Almost eighteen percent of school children speak Spanish or Lao at home. The county's per capita personal income in 1997 was \$20,950, which was thirty-fourth among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in 1997 were non-durable goods manufacturing, services, and state and local government. The fastest growing industry was transportation and public utilities, increasing by over 8% between 1996 and 1997. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 4.1%.

**Positives:** Near to the average county on many indicators of child well-being.

**Concerns:** Higher-than-average rates of teen births and school transfers.

**Trends to Watch:** Increase in school transfers.

	1991	1995	1998	1998 State				
Family Economics								
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)		512	10%	543	11%	147,791	11.8%	
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	1,039	29%	1,252	31%	1,228	34%	222,938	26.3%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	3	13	26	6	22	1,940	17.7	
Children born at low birth weight	13	4%	16	5%	14	5%	3,806	5.8%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)		850	23%	1,045	28%	147,231	17.6%	
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	56	3%	75	4%	36	2%	13,180	3.3%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	0	18	44%	95	56%	18,416	46.8%	
Children abused and neglected	49	36		26		10,572		
Children in out-of-home placements	67	101		70		18,858		
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0	0		0		171		

(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

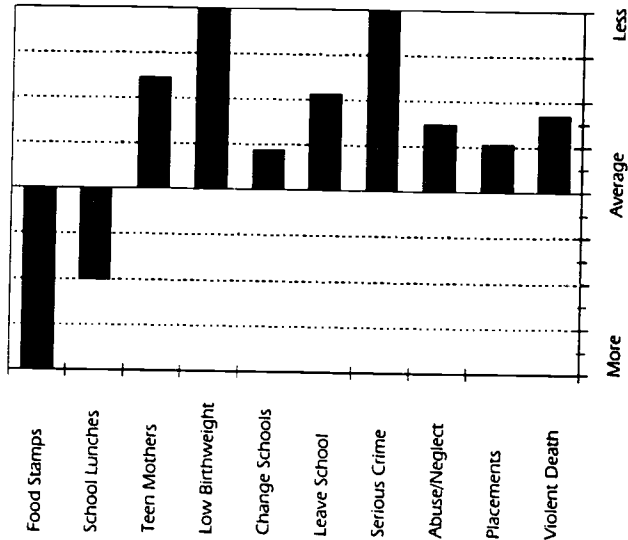


# Norman

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	7,535
Estimated number of children, 1998	1,943
Estimated % of children, 1998	25.8%
Estimated number of children, 1991	2,157
% change in number of children, 1991-98	-9.9%
Projected population, 2005	7,380
Projected number of children, 2005	1,980
(children defined as under 18)	

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Norman County



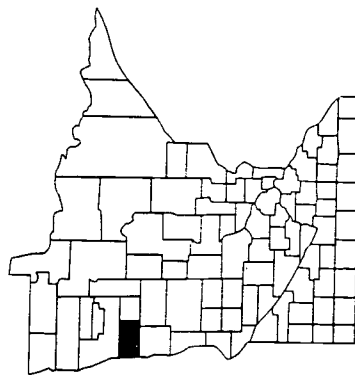
Compared to the Average County 1998  
(definitions for the data are on p. 125)

Norman County, the eleventh smallest county in the state, is located in northwestern Minnesota along the Red River and North Dakota border. The county seat is Ada. Norman county's per capita personal income in 1997 was \$17,905, which ranked seventy-third among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in 1997 were services, state and local government, and retail trade. The fastest growing industry in the county was services, increasing by almost 12% between 1996 and 1997. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 4.9%.

**Positives:** Lower-than-average teen birth rate, percentages of low birth weight babies, school dropouts, and arrests of children for serious crimes.

**Concerns:** Higher-than-average percentage of children receiving food stamps and free/reduced-price school lunch.

**Trends to Watch:** Increase in the percentage of children receiving food stamps.



	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
<b>Family Economics</b>				
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	352	17%	533	27%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	651	39%	630	42%
<b>Starting Out</b>				
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	2	11	2	7
Children born at low birth weight	5	6%	6	6%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)	156	10%	164	11%
<b>Signs of Trouble</b>				
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	5	1%	6	1%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	0	0	0	0
Children abused and neglected	10	16	8	10,572
Children in out-of-home placements	17	16	21	18,858
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0	0	0	171

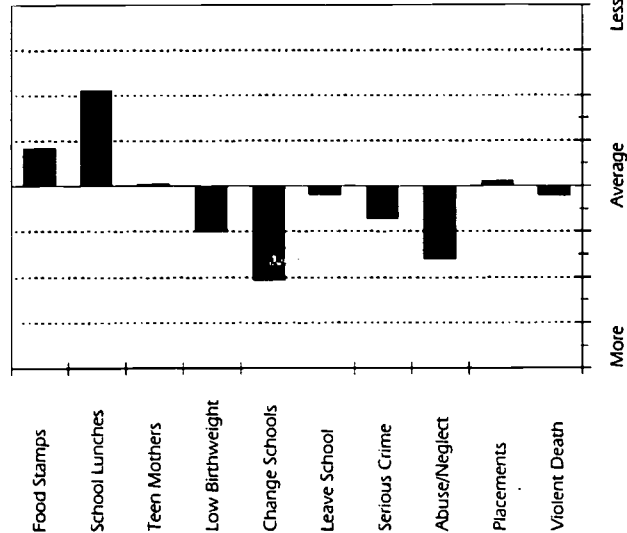
(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

# Olmsted

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	116,702
Estimated number of children, 1998	31,474
Estimated % of children, 1998	27.0%
Estimated number of children, 1991	30,642
% change in number of children, 1991-98	2.7%
Projected population, 2005	122,490
Projected number of children, 2005	32,850
(children defined as under 18)	

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Olmsted County



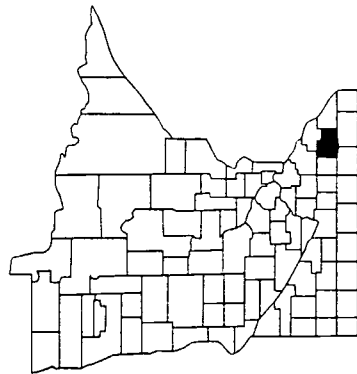
Compared to the Average County 1998  
(definitions for the data are on p. 125)

Olmsted County in southeastern Minnesota is the eighth largest county in the state. The county seat is Rochester. Over ten percent of school children speak a language other than English at home. Olmsted County's 1997 per capita personal income of \$27,233 ranked sixth among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in the county were services, durable goods manufacturing, and retail trade. The fastest growing industry was durable goods manufacturing, which increased by over 20% from 1996 and 1997. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 1.6%.

**Positives:** Near the average county for most indicators of child well-being.

**Concerns:** Higher-than-average rate of school transfers.

**Trends to Watch:** Increase in the number of children in out-of-home placements.



## Family Economics

Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)

	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	2,716	9%	2,826	9%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	3,381	17%	4,075	19%
				222,938
				11.8%
				26.3%

## Starting Out

Children born to teenage mothers (a)

	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	29	41	45	15
Children born at low birth weight	80	126	114	6%
				3,806
				5.8%

Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)

	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)	3,374	17%	3,919	19%
				147,231
				17.6%

## Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)

	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	208	3%	235	2%
				13,180
				3.3%

Children arrested for serious crimes (b)

	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	544	49%	566	49%
				573
				50%
				18,416
				46.8%

Children abused and neglected

	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
Children abused and neglected	158	222	312	10,572

Children in out-of-home placements

	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
Children in out-of-home placements	227	246	425	18,858

Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries

	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	6	3	7	171

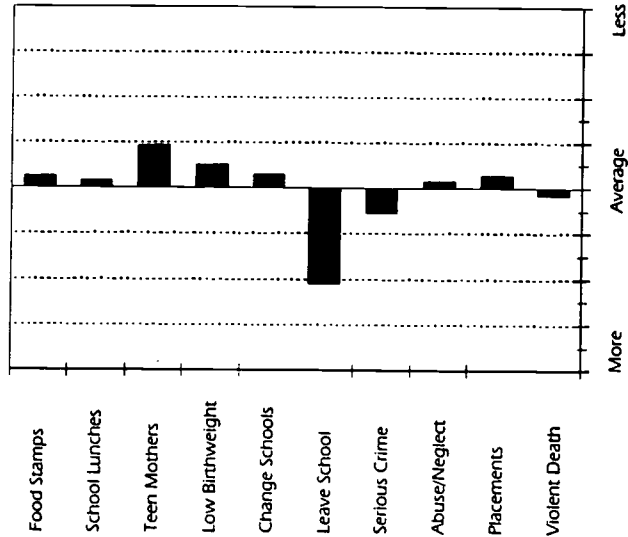
(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

# Otter Tail

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	54,911
Estimated number of children, 1998	14,026
Estimated % of children, 1998	25.5%
Estimated number of children, 1991	13,660
% change in number of children, 1991-98	2.7%
Projected population, 2005	54,840
Projected number of children, 2005 (children defined as under 18)	13,610

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Otter Tail County



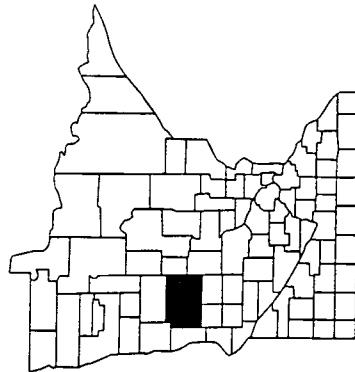
Comparing to the Average County 1998  
(definitions for the data are on p. 125)

Otter Tail County is located in the west central region of Minnesota. The county seat is Fergus Falls. The county is the thirteenth largest county in the state. Otter Tail County's 1997 per capita personal income of \$19,119 ranked fifty-ninth among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in the county in 1997 were services, state and local government, and retail trade. The fastest growing industry in Otter Tail County was services, increasing by over 10% between 1996 and 1997. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 3.9%.

**Positives:** Near-average county on almost all indicators of child well-being.

**Concerns:** Higher-than-average percentage of children dropping out of school.

**Trends to Watch:** Decrease in teen birth rate, increase in percentage of children receiving food stamps.



	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
<b>Family Economics</b>				
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	1,061	8%	1,489	11%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	2,828	31%	2,923	29%
<b>Starting Out</b>				
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	11	17	21	12
Children born at low birth weight	33	5%	30	5%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)	1,043	11%	1,190	13%
<b>Signs of Trouble</b>				
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	113	3%	199	4%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	168	37%	183	49%
Children abused and neglected	137	140	93	10,572
Children in out-of-home placements	205	186	181	18,858
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	1	2	3	171

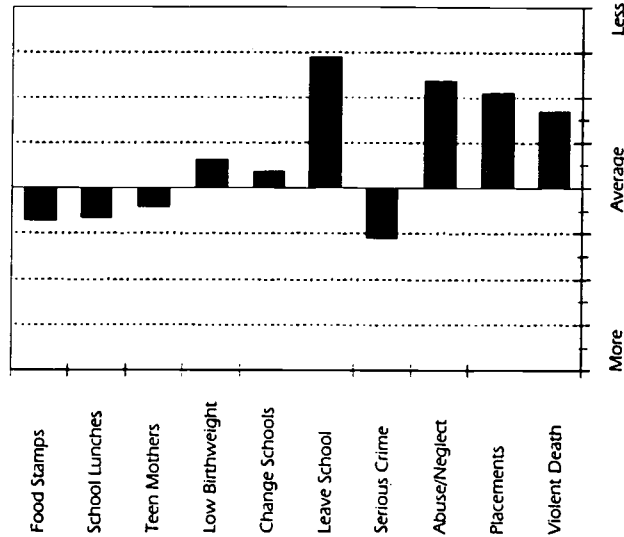
(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

# Pennington

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	13,562
Estimated number of children, 1998	3,655
Estimated % of children, 1998	27.0%
Estimated number of children, 1991	3,650
% change in number of children, 1991-98	0.1%
Projected population, 2005	13,370
Projected number of children, 2005	3,620
(children defined as under 18)	

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Pennington County

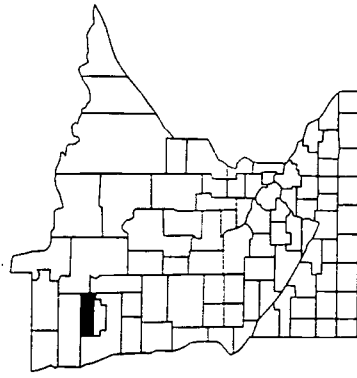


Compared to the Average County 1998  
(definitions for the data are on p. 125)

Pennington County is a moderately small county located in northwestern Minnesota. The county seat is Thief River Falls. Its 1997 per capita personal income of \$18,613 was sixty-fifth among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in Pennington County in 1997 were services, and state and local government, and retail trade. Wholesale trade was the fastest growing industry in the county, increasing by almost 23% between 1996 and 1997. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 4.4%.

**Positives:** Lower-than-average rate of children dropping out of school, substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect, and out-of-home placements.  
**Concerns:** None.

**Trends to Watch:** Increase in percentage of children receiving food stamps.



## Family Economics

Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)

	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	922	854	498	147,791
	37%	35%	14%	11.8%

Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)

## Starting Out

Children born to teenage mothers (a)	5	6	15	6	16	1,940	17.7
Children born at low birth weight	6	4%	8	5%	8	3,806	5.8%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)	313	12%	310	12%	147,231	17.6%	

## Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	7	1%	16	1%	0%	13,180	3.3%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	61	41%	94	47%	110	54%	18,416
Children abused and neglected	8	8	9	10,572			
Children in out-of-home placements	19	36	25	18,858			
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0	1	0	171			

(a) rates for 93-95,95-97,96-98 (b) % of all arrests

198

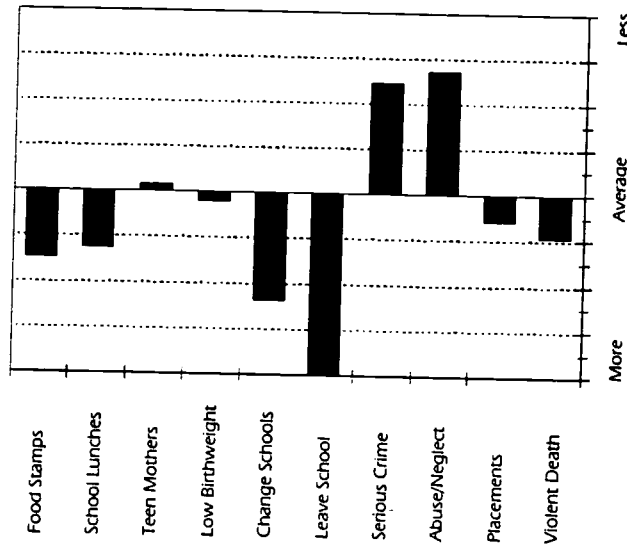
# Pine

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998 .....	23,916
Estimated number of children, 1998 .....	6,588
Estimated % of children, 1998 .....	27.5%
Estimated number of children, 1991 .....	6,160
% change in number of children, 1991-98 .....	6.9%
Projected population, 2005 .....	23,920
Projected number of children, 2005 .....	6,660

(children defined as under 18)

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Pine County



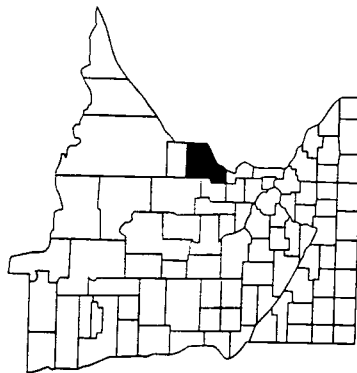
Compared to the Average County 1998  
(definitions for the data are on p. 125)

Pine County is a mid-size county located in east central Minnesota on the Wisconsin border. The county seat is Pine City. A portion of the Mille Lacs Reservation is located in the county. The county's 1997 per capita personal income of \$16,495 was the eighth lowest among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in 1997 were services, state and local government, and retail trade. The fastest growing industry was retail trade, which increased by more than 8% between 1996 and 1997. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 5.7%.

**Positives:** Lower-than-average substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect and percentage of arrests of children for serious crime.

**Concerns:** Higher-than-average percentages of high school dropouts and student transfers.

**Trends to Watch:** Decrease in student transfers.



	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
<b>Family Economics</b>				
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)		859 13%	1,048 16%	147,791 11.8%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	1,732 39%	1,774 38%	1,657 37%	222,938 26.3%
<b>Starting Out</b>				
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	17	10 21	8 14	1,940 17.7
Children born at low birth weight	14 5%	11 5%	15 6%	3,806 5.8%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)		1,001 21%	898 19%	147,231 17.6%
<b>Signs of Trouble</b>				
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	61 3%	116 5%	125 5%	13,180 3.3%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	26 35%	31 32%	12 23%	18,416 46.8%
Children abused and neglected	11	6	12	10,572
Children in out-of-home placements	91	98	104	18,858
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0	5	2	171

(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

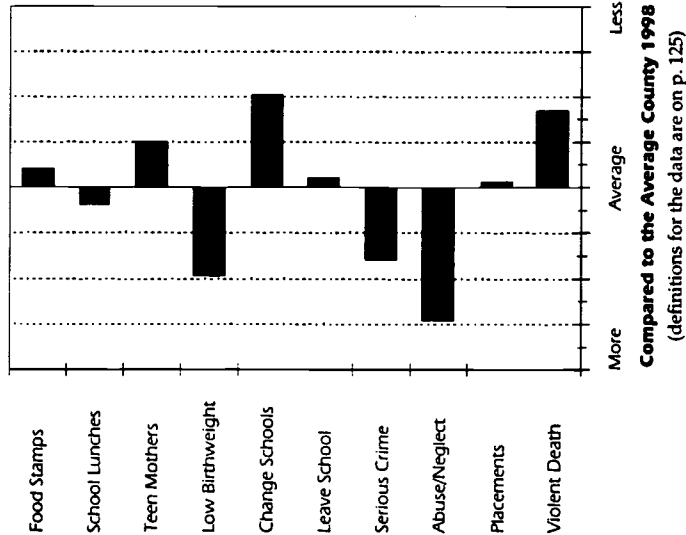


# Pipestone

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	10,092
Estimated number of children, 1998	2,752
Estimated % of children, 1998	27.3%
Estimated number of children, 1991	2,940
% change in number of children, 1991-98	-6.4%
Projected population, 2005	9,830
Projected number of children, 2005	2,670
(children defined as under 18)	

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Pipestone County

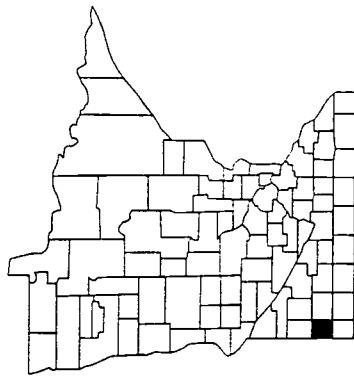


Pipestone County is located in the southwestern corner of the state along the South Dakota border. The county seat is Pipestone. It's the sixteenth smallest county in Minnesota. Pipestone County had a per capita personal income of \$19,898, which ranked fiftieth among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in 1997 were services, state and local government, and farm. Non-durable goods manufacturing was the fastest growing industry between 1996 and 1997, increasing just over 9%. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 2.5%.

**Positives:** Close to the average county for many indicators of child well-being.

**Concerns:** Higher-than-average percentage of low birth weight babies and substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect.

**Trends to Watch:** Increase in percentage of children receiving food stamps.



## Family Economics

	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	191	7%	281	10% 147,791 11.8%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	819	31%	703	32% 222,938 26.3%

## Starting Out

Children born to teenage mothers (a)	4	1	8	4	11	1,940	17.7
Children born at low birth weight	6	4%	10	9%	8%	3,806	5.8%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)	241	11%	173	8%	147 231	17 6%	

## Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	2	0%	13	2%	19	2%	13,180	3.3%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	12	71%	10	33%	18	58%	18,416	46.8%
Children abused and neglected	24		36		34		10,572	
Children in out-of-home placements	54		40		37		18,858	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0	1	0		0		171	

(a) rates for 93-95,95-97,96-98 (b) % of all arrests

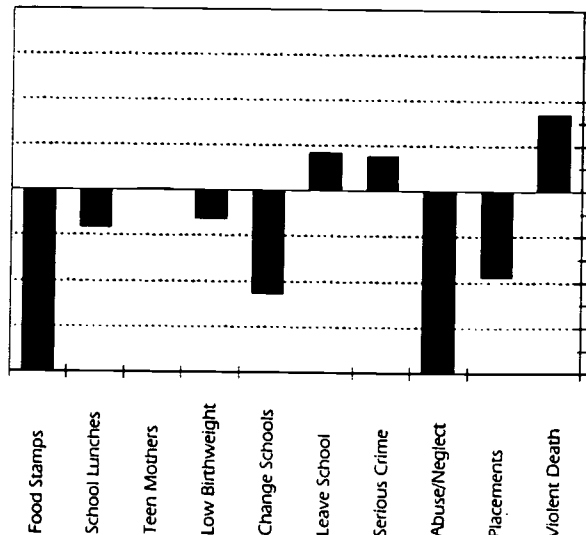


# Polk

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	30,954
Estimated number of children, 1998	8,666
Estimated % of children, 1998	28.0%
Estimated number of children, 1991	9,711
% change in number of children, 1991-98	-10.8%
Projected population, 2005	32,120
Projected number of children, 2005	8,870
(children defined as under 18)	

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Polk County



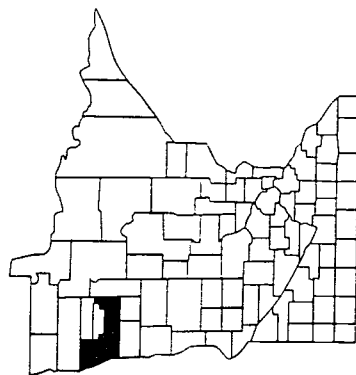
More Average Less  
**Compared to the Average County 1998**  
 (definitions for the data are on p. 125)

Polk County is a moderately large county in northwest Minnesota on the North Dakota border and the Red River. The county seat is Crookston. Almost 5% of school children in Polk County speak Spanish at home. Its per capita personal income of \$18,613 ranked sixty-fifth among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in the county in 1997 were services, state and local government, and retail trade. The fastest growing industry between 1996 and 1997 was wholesale trade, which increased by almost 23%. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 3.5%.

**Positives:** Close to the average county for several indicators of child well-being.

**Concerns:** Higher than the average county for the percentage of children receiving food stamps, school transfers, and substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect.

**Trends to Watch:** Increase in percentage of children receiving food stamps.



	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
<b>Family Economics</b>				
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	1,518	17%	2,489	29%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	2,329	36%	2,087	34%
<b>Starting Out</b>				
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	12	13	14	15
Children born at low birth weight	23	5%	23	6%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)	1,158	17%	1,200	19%
<b>Signs of Trouble</b>				
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	78	3%	53	2%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	65	24%	51	37%
Children abused and neglected	147	157	125	10,572
Children in out-of-home placements	159	158	175	18,858
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	2	1	0	171

(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

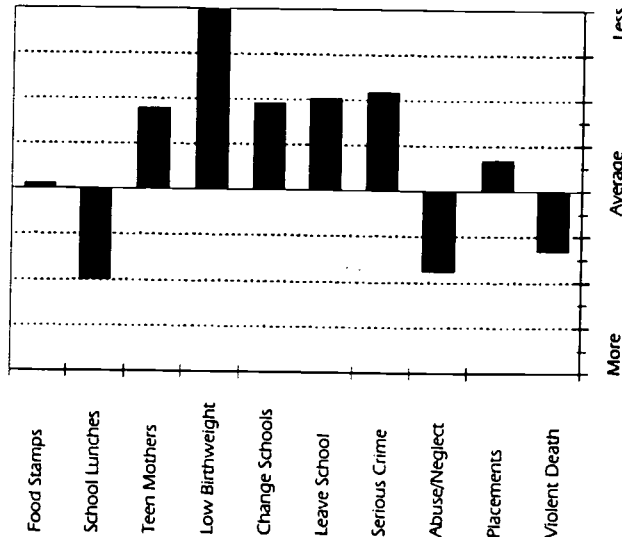
204

# Pope

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	10,886
Estimated number of children, 1998	2,850
Estimated % of children, 1998	26.2%
Estimated number of children, 1991	2,951
% change in number of children, 1991-98	-3.4%
Projected population, 2005	10,760
Projected number of children, 2005	2,310
(children defined as under 18)	

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Pope County



Compared to the Average County 1998  
(definitions for the data are on p. 125)

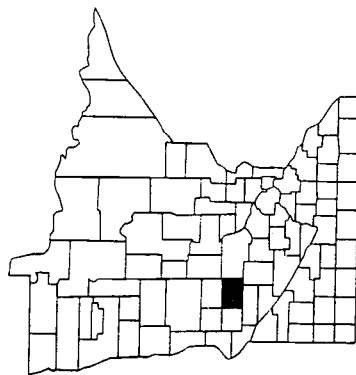
205

Pope County is a moderately small county located in west central Minnesota. The county seat is Glenwood. The county's 1997 per capita personal income of \$18,326 ranked sixty-ninth among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in the county in 1997 were state and local government, services, and durable goods manufacturing. The fastest growing industry in Pope County was wholesale trade, which increased over 16% between 1996 and 1997. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 3%.

**Positives:** Lower-than-average percentages of low birth weight babies, school transfers and dropouts, teen births, and arrests of children for serious crimes.

**Concerns:** Higher-than-average percentage of children receiving free/reduced-price school lunch and substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect.

**Trends to Watch:** Increase in percentage of children receiving food stamps.



	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
<b>Family Economics</b>				
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	218	7%	318	11%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	593	33%	800	42%
<b>Starting Out</b>				
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	2	0	13	1
Children born at low birth weight	6	5%	1	1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)	119	6%	159	8%
<b>Signs of Trouble</b>				
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	5	1%	2	0%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	38	49%	16	39%
Children abused and neglected	25	12	29	25%
Children in out-of-home placements	20	27	33	10,572
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0	0	1	18,858
				171

(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

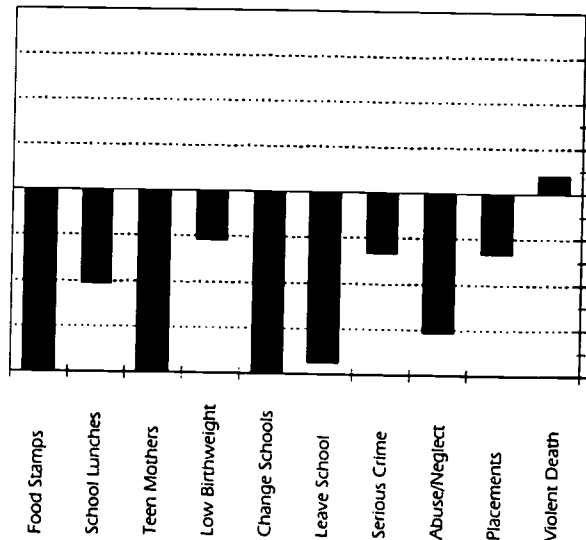
206

# Ramsey

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	485,636
Estimated number of children, 1998	122,058
Estimated % of children, 1998	25.1%
Estimated number of children, 1991	126,924
% change in number of children, 1991-98	-3.8%
Projected population, 2005	501,780
Projected number of children, 2005	128,770
(children defined as under 18)	

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Ramsey County



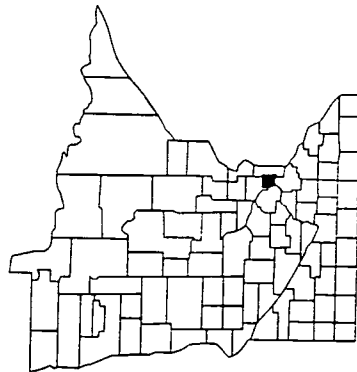
More Average Less  
Compared to the Average County 1998  
(definitions for the data are on p. 125)

Ramsey County, the second largest county in Minnesota, is part of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Statistical Area. The county seat is St. Paul. The county is ethnically and racially diverse, and over 21% of students speak a language other than English at home. The 1997 per capita personal income of \$29,954 was the second highest in the state. The largest industries were services, non-durable goods manufacturing, and state and local government. Wholesale trade was the fastest growing industry, increasing by 16% between 1996 and 1997. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 2%.

**Positives:** Close to the average county for the percentage of low birth weight babies, child deaths, and percentage of arrests of children for serious crimes.

**Concerns:** Worse than average on many indicators, especially teen births, school transfers and dropouts, and percentage of children receiving food stamps.

**Trends to Watch:** Increase in out-of-home placements.



	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
<b>Family Economics</b>				
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	28,522	23%	30,096	25% 147,791
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	26,707	36%	32,638	40% 222,938
<b>Starting Out</b>				
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	320	326	38	35 1,940
Children born at low birth weight	485	6%	491	7% 3,806
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)	22,437	28%	23,126	27% 147,231
<b>Signs of Trouble</b>				
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	1,844	6%	2,580	7% 13,180
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	2,767	46%	3,385	55% 18,416
Children abused and neglected	1,233	1,411	1,543	10,572
Children in out-of-home placements	1,545	1,710	2,238	18,858
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	13	15	18	171

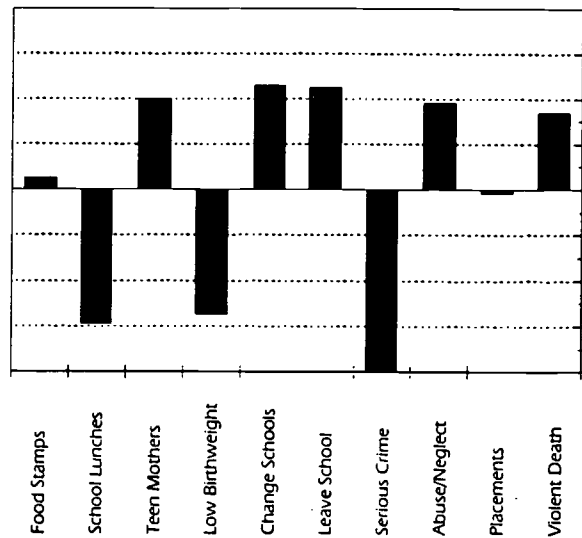
(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

# Red Lake

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	4,270
Estimated number of children, 1998	1,208
Estimated % of children, 1998	28.3%
Estimated number of children, 1991	1,359
% change in number of children, 1991-98	-11.1%
Projected population, 2005	4,210
Projected number of children, 2005 (children defined as under 18)	1,180

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Red Lake County



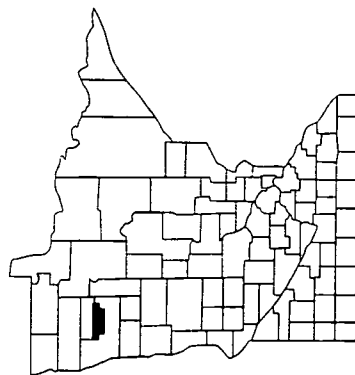
More Average Less  
Compared to the Average County 1998  
(definitions for the data are on p. 125)

Red Lake County is the second smallest county in the state. It is located in northwestern Minnesota. The county seat is Red Lake Falls. The county's 1997 per capita personal income of \$15,187 was the lowest among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in Red Lake County in 1997 were state and local government, services, and transportation and public utilities. Construction was the county's fastest growing industry, increasing by more than 22% between 1996 and 1997. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 8%.

**Positives:** Lower-than-average teen birth rate, school transfers and dropouts, and substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect.

**Concerns:** The higher-than-average rate of children arrested for serious crime reflects a lack of adult crime arrests.

**Trends to Watch:** Increase in the number of children in out-of-home placements.



## Family Economics

Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)

Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)

## Starting Out

Children born to teenage mothers (a)

Children born at low birth weight

Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)

## Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)

Children arrested for serious crimes (b)

Children abused and neglected

Children in out-of-home placements

Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries

	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	507	45%	129	11%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	507	45%	396	45%
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	1	0	3	815%
Children born at low birth weight	3	7%	4	8%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)	81	8%	70	7%
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	5	1%	3	1%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	1	25%	1	100%
Children abused and neglected	3	2	4	10,572
Children in out-of-home placements	8	11	17	18,858
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0	0	0	171

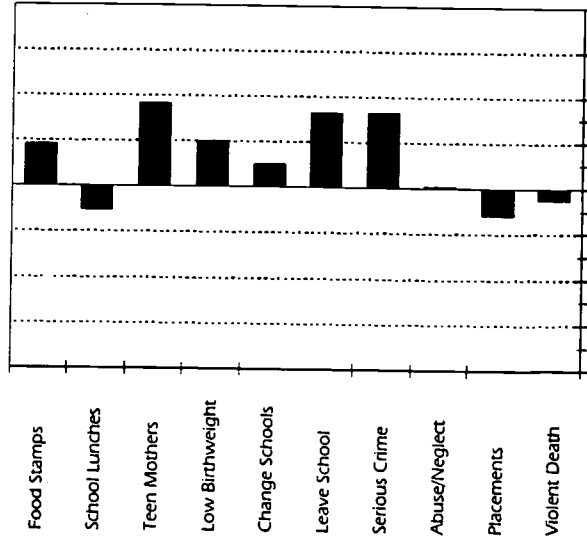
(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

# Redwood

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	16,489
Estimated number of children, 1998	4,411
Estimated % of children, 1998	26.8%
Estimated number of children, 1991	4,869
% change in number of children, 1991-98	-9.4%
Projected population, 2005	16,500
Projected number of children, 2005	4,460
(children defined as under 18)	

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Redwood County



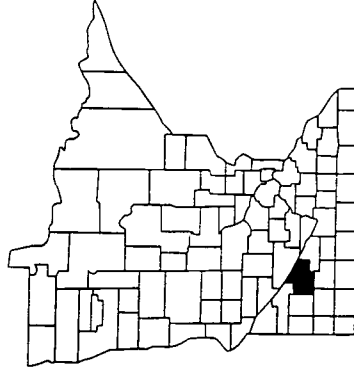
More Average Less  
**Compared to the Average County 1998**  
 (definitions for the data are on p. 125)

Redwood County is a mid-size county located in southwestern Minnesota along the Minnesota River. The county seat is Redwood Falls. The Lower Sioux Indian Reservation lies on its border. Its 1997 per capita personal income of \$21,238 ranked twenty-ninth in the state. The largest industries in 1976 were services, durable goods manufacturing, and state and local government. Wholesale trade was the fastest growing industry between 1996 and 1997, increasing by over 11%. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 2.7%.

**Positives:** Lower-than-average teen birth rate, percentage of children dropping out of school, percentage of arrests of children for serious crimes.

**Concerns:** None.

**Trends to Watch:** Increase in the percentage of children receiving food stamps.



## Family Economics

	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	274	6%	384	9%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	895	27%	1,087	30%
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	2	6	15	2
Children born at low birth weight	5	2%	10	5%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)	365	11%	431	12%
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	15	1%	23	1%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	37	44%	72	51%
Children abused and neglected	23	15	30	30
Children in out-of-home placements	55	70	70	70
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0	1	1	1

(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

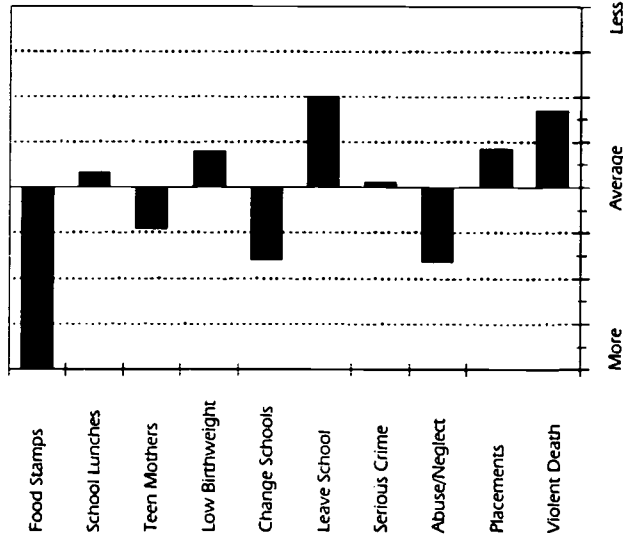


# Renville

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	16,923
Estimated number of children, 1998	4,524
Estimated % of children, 1998	26.7%
Estimated number of children, 1991	5,006
% change in number of children, 1991-98	-9.6%
Projected population, 2005	16,690
Projected number of children, 2005	4,550
(children defined as under 18)	

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Renville County



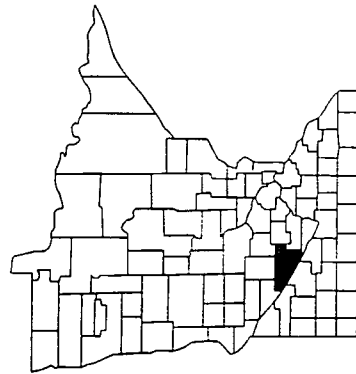
Compared to the Average County 1998  
(definitions for the data are on p. 125)

Renville County is a mid-size county in south central Minnesota. The county seat is Olivia. The Upper Sioux Indian Reservation lies along its border. Over eleven percent of school children speak Spanish at home. The county's 1997 per capita personal income of \$21,402 ranked twenty-sixth in the state. The largest industries in 1997 were farm, services, and state and local government. Non-durable goods manufacturing was the fastest growing industry, increasing by just over 17% from 1996 to 1997. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 4.3%.

**Positives:** Lower-than-average percentage of high school dropouts.

**Concerns:** Higher-than-average rates of children receiving food stamps and substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect.

**Trends to Watch:** Increases in school transfers and children receiving food stamps.



	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
<b>Family Economics</b>				
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	703	15%	1,170	26%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	901	27%	763	29%
<b>Starting Out</b>				
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	5	9	7	18
Children born at low birth weight	3	1%	9	5%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)	407	15%	483	17%
<b>Signs of Trouble</b>				
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	13	1%	11	1%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	2	8%	22	43%
Children abused and neglected	28	56	45	10,572
Children in out-of-home placements	56	53	50	18,858
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	2	1	0	171

(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests



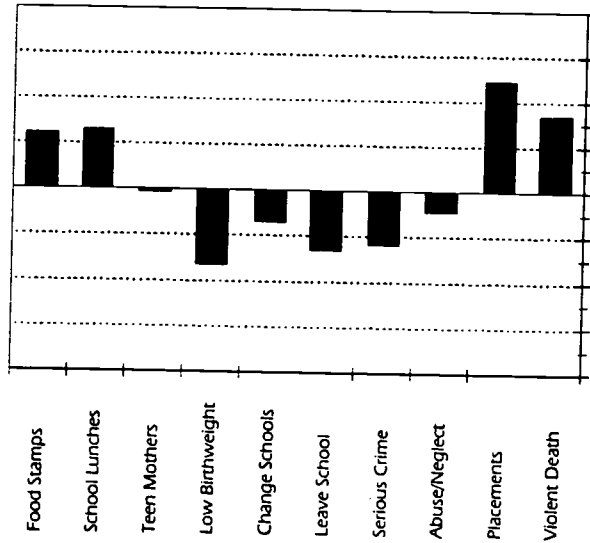
# Rice

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	54,106
Estimated number of children, 1998	14,888
Estimated % of children, 1998	27.5%
Estimated number of children, 1991	13,371
% change in number of children, 1991-98	11.3%
Projected population, 2005	56,390
Projected number of children, 2005	16,550

(children defined as under 18)

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children In Rice County



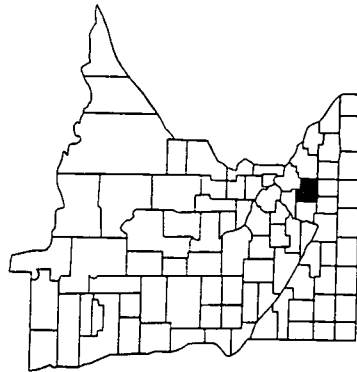
More Average Less  
**Compared to the Average County 1998**  
(definitions for the data are on p. 125)

Rice County is located in the southeast region of Minnesota. Over 7% of the county's children speak a language other than English at home. The county seat is Faribault. It is the fifteenth largest county in the state, and ranked forty-first among Minnesota counties with its 1997 per capita personal income of \$20,612. The largest industries were services, state and local government, and durable goods manufacturing. Durable goods manufacturing was the fastest growing industry, increasing by almost 10% from 1996 to 1997. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 2.7%.

**Positives:** Lower-than-average number of children in out-of-home placements.

**Concerns:** Higher-than-average percentage of children born at low birth weight.

**Trends to Watch:** Decreases in teen birth rate, number of children in out-of-home placements.



## Family Economics

Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)

Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)

## Starting Out

Children born to teenage mothers (a)

Children born at low birth weight

Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)

## Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)

Children arrested for serious crimes (b)

Children abused and neglected

Children in out-of-home placements

Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries

	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	906	7%	1,163	8%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	2,154	25%	1,959	24%
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	18	19	19	15
Children born at low birth weight	26	4%	48	7%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)	1,045	13%	1,229	15%
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	126	4%	138	3%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	128	48%	188	54%
Children abused and neglected	23	120	115	10,572
Children in out-of-home placements	121	98	85	18,858
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	3	1	-	171

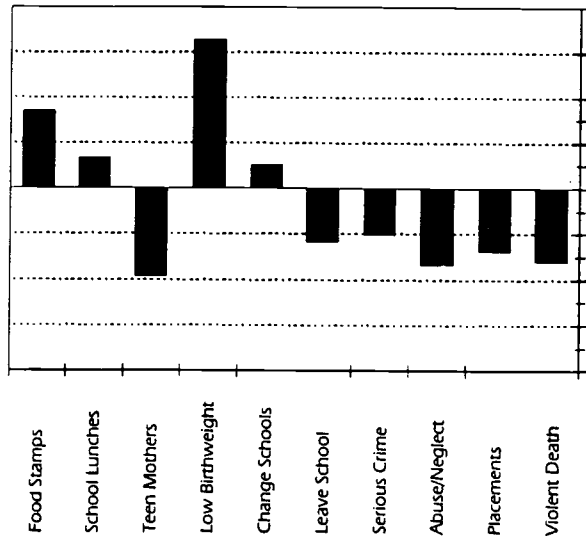
(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

# Rock

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998 .....	9,743
Estimated number of children, 1998 .....	2,600
Estimated % of children, 1998 .....	26.7%
Estimated number of children, 1991 .....	2,784
% change in number of children, 1991-98 .....	-6.6%
Projected population, 2005 .....	9,210
Projected number of children, 2005 .....	2,380
(children defined as under 18)	

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Rock County



More Average Less  
**Compared to the Average County 1998**  
 (definitions for the data are on p. 125)

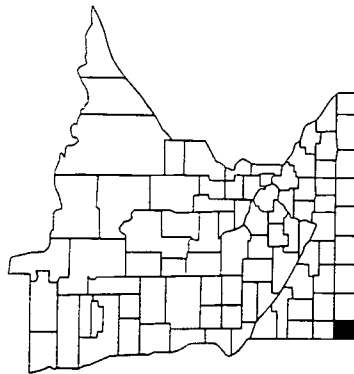
217

Rock County is the fifteenth smallest county and is located in the southwest corner of Minnesota, bordering South Dakota and Iowa. The county seat is Luverne. Rock County's per capita personal income of \$20,790 ranked thirty-ninth among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in the county in 1997 were services, farm, and state and local government. Wholesale trade was the fastest growing industry from 1996 to 1997, increasing at a rate of almost 14%. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 3.4%.

**Positives:** Lower-than-average percentages of low birth weight babies and children receiving food stamps.

**Concerns:** Higher-than-average teen birth rate, which may be affected by the relatively small total number of births in the county.

**Trends to Watch:** Increase in school transfers and children receiving food stamps.



## Family Economics

	1991	1995	1998	1998 State				
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)		95	165	6%	147,791	11.8%		
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	485	26%	540	28%	469	27%	222,938	26.3%

## Starting Out

Children born to teenage mothers (a)	3	3	13	5	21	1,940	17.7
Children born at low birth weight	2	2%	2	2%	2	3,806	5.8%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)		154	8%	213	12%	147,231	17.6%

## Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	10	1%	8	1%	28	3%	13,180	3.3%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	0		0		9	53%	18,416	46.8%
Children abused and neglected	11		24		26		10,572	
Children in out-of-home placements	11		47		48		18,858	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0		0		1		171	

(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

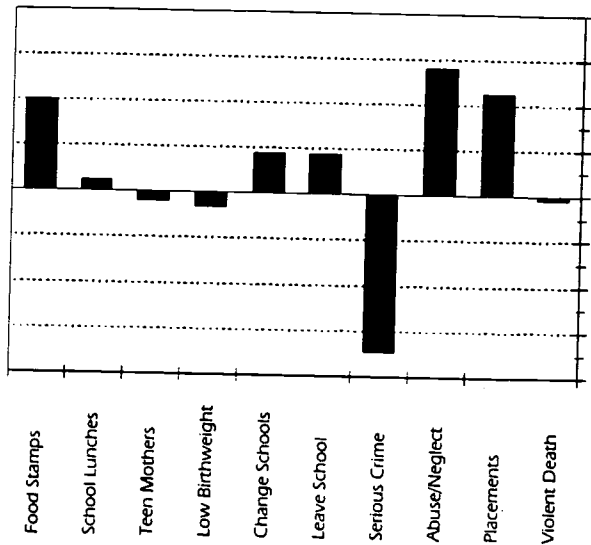
218

# Roseau

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	16,120
Estimated number of children, 1998	4,894
Estimated % of children, 1998	30.4%
Estimated number of children, 1991	4,801
% change in number of children, 1991-98	1.9%
Projected population, 2005	17,150
Projected number of children, 2005	5,360
(children defined as under 18)	

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Roseau County



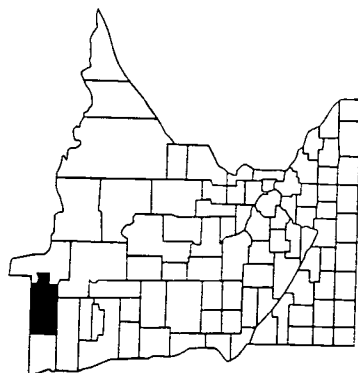
More Average Less  
Compared to the Average County 1998  
(definitions for the data are on p. 125)

Roseau County is a mid-size county in northern Minnesota. The county seat is Roseau. The county had a 1997 per capita personal income of \$19,818. This ranked Roseau fifty-first among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in Roseau County in 1997 were durable goods manufacturing, services, and state and local government. The fastest growing industry in the county was services, which increased by over 10% between 1996 and 1997. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 3.7%.

**Positives:** Lower-than-average percentage of children receiving food stamps, substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect, and out-of-home placements.

**Concerns:** Higher-than-average percentage of arrests of children for serious crimes. This may reflect a lower-than-average percentage of adult arrests for serious crimes.

**Trends to Watch:** Decrease in the teen birth rate.



	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
<b>Family Economics</b>				
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	146	3%	266	5%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	997	29%	1,110	29%
<b>Starting Out</b>				
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	5	10	24	16
Children born at low birth weight	11	5%	13	6%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)	355	9%	430	11%
<b>Signs of Trouble</b>				
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	12	1%	29	2%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	21	50%	26	74%
Children abused and neglected	16	14	8	10,572
Children in out-of-home placements	25	31	31	18,858
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	3	2	1	171

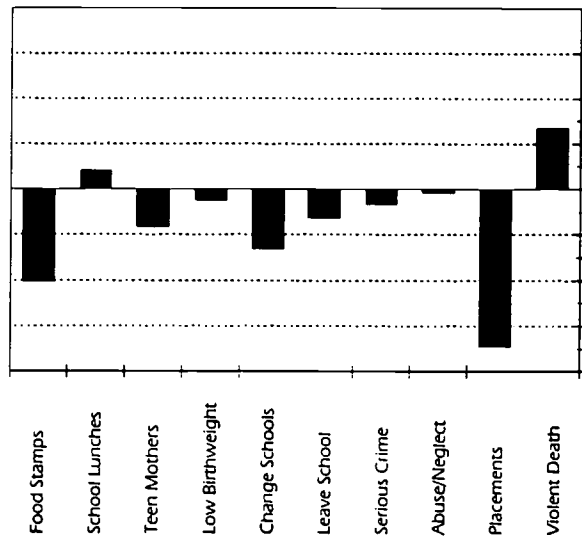
(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

# St. Louis

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	193,431
Estimated number of children, 1998	46,633
Estimated % of children, 1998	24.1%
Estimated number of children, 1991	48,955
% change in number of children, 1991-98	-4.7%
Projected population, 2005	197,520
Projected number of children, 2005	50,250
(children defined as under 18)	

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in St. Louis County



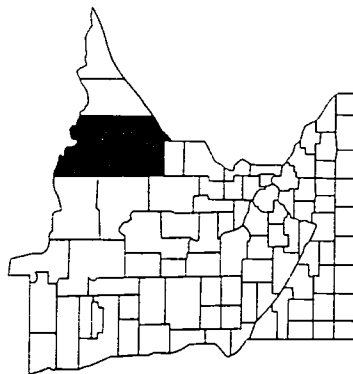
More Average Less  
Compared to the Average County 1998  
(definitions for the data are on p. 125)

St. Louis County, the fifth largest county, is located on Lake Superior in northeast Minnesota, part of the Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Statistical Area. The county seat is Duluth. Portions of both the Fond du Lac and Boise Forte Indian Reservations are located in the county. Its 1997 per capita personal income was \$22,357, the nineteenth highest in the state. The largest industries in 1997 were services, state and local government, and retail trade. The fastest growing industry was construction, which increased by 11% between 1996 and 1997. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 3.8%.

**Positives:** Close to the average county for many indicators of child well-being.

**Concerns:** Higher-than-average percentage of children receiving food stamps and in out-of-home placements.

**Trends to Watch:** Decrease in out-of-home placements, increase in children receiving food stamps.



## Family Economics

Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)

Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)

## Starting Out

Children born to teenage mothers (a)

Children born at low birth weight

Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)

## Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)

Children arrested for serious crimes (b)

Children abused and neglected

Children in out-of-home placements

Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries

	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	6,239	13%	8,174	18% 147,791 11.8%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	9,135	28%	8,867	27% 8,872 28% 222,938 26.3%
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	69	74	19	84 18 1,940 17.7
Children born at low birth weight	106	5%	128	6% 117 6% 3,806 5.8%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)	5,171	16%	5,426	17% 147,231 17.6%
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	673	4%	534	3% 455 3% 13,180 3.3%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	786	45%	965	50% 814 47% 18,416 46.8%
Children abused and neglected	510	373	329	10,572
Children in out-of-home placements	1,400	1,459	1,182	18,858
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	11	5	2	171

(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

222

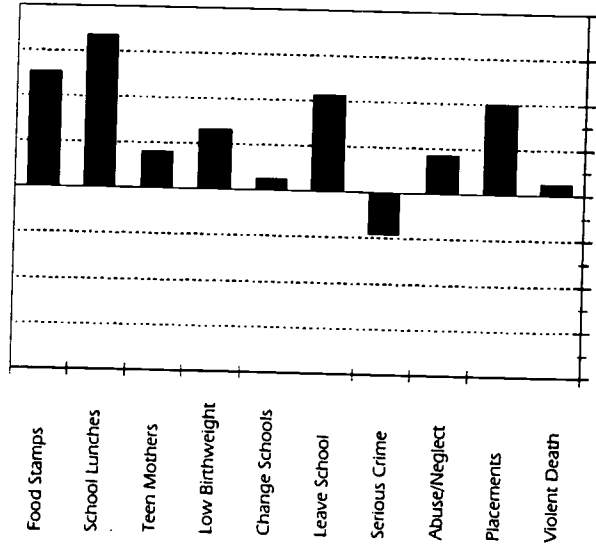
221

# Scott

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	79,031
Estimated number of children, 1998	24,006
Estimated % of children, 1998	30.4%
Estimated number of children, 1991	18,916
% change in number of children, 1991-98	26.9%
Projected population, 2005	87,850
Projected number of children, 2005	26,920
(children defined as under 18)	

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Scott County



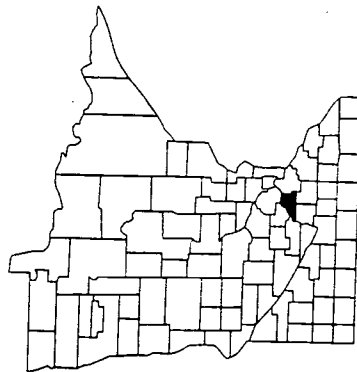
More Average Less  
**Compared to the Average County 1998**  
 (definitions for the data are on p. 125)

Scott County comprises the southwest edge of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Statistical Area and is the tenth largest county in Minnesota. The county seat is Shakopee. The Shakopee Mdewakanton Reservation is located within the county. Scott County's per capita personal income of \$25,281 ranked seventh in the state. Services, construction, and durable goods manufacturing were the largest industries in 1997. Non-durable goods manufacturing was the fastest growing industry, increasing by 11% since 1997. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 2.1%.

**Positives:** Lower-than-average percentage of children receiving food stamps and free/reduced-price school lunch, rate of school dropouts, and out-of-home placements.

**Concerns:** None.

**Trends to Watch:** Decrease in teen births.



	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
<b>Family Economics</b>				
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)		707 3%	935 4%	147,791 11.8%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	1,315 13%	1,557 12%	1,660 13%	222,938 26.3%
<b>Starting Out</b>				
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	19	21 15	20 12	1,940 17.7
Children born at low birth weight	57 5%	60 5%	59 4%	3,806 5.8%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)		1,329 12%	1,537 13%	147,231 17.6%
<b>Signs of Trouble</b>				
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	62 1%	71 1%	39 1%	13,180 3.3%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	198 54%	205 54%	169 52%	18,416 46.8%
Children abused and neglected	140	142	128	10,572
Children in out-of-home placements	101	116	173	18,858
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	3	5	4	171

(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

224

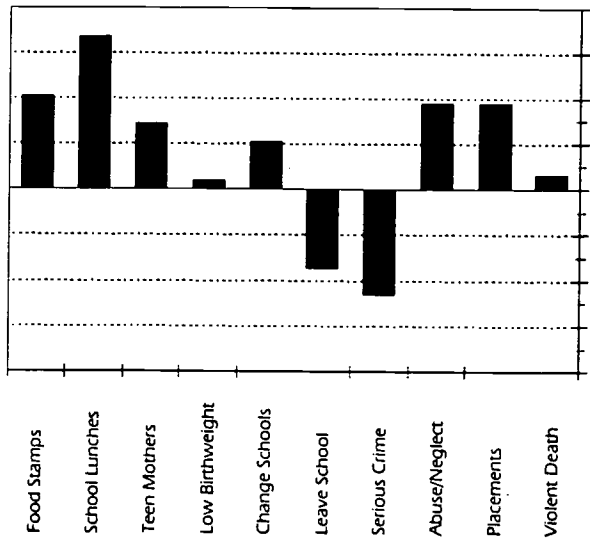


# Sherburne

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998 .....	60,391
Estimated number of children, 1998 .....	18,918
Estimated % of children, 1998 .....	31.3%
Estimated number of children, 1991 .....	14,073
% change in number of children, 1991-98 .....	34.4%
Projected population, 2005 .....	68,960
Projected number of children, 2005 .....	22,380
(children defined as under 18)	

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Sherburne County



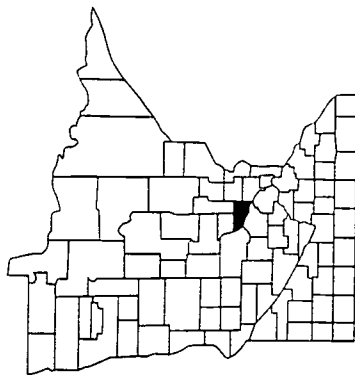
More Average Less  
Compared to the Average County 1998  
(definitions for the data are on p. 125)

Sherburne County is located in central Minnesota, on the northern edge of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Statistical Area. The county seat is Elk River. It is the twelfth largest county in Minnesota, and had a per capita personal income of \$19,793 in 1997, ranking fifty-third among Minnesota counties. The county's largest industries were durable goods manufacturing, state and local government, and services. Retail trade was the fastest growing industry between 1996 and 1997, increasing by over 14%. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 2.6%.

**Positives:** Lower-than-average percentage of children receiving food stamps and free/reduced-price school lunch, teen births, substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect, and out-of-home placements.

**Concerns:** Higher-than-average percentages of arrests of children or serious crime, and dropout rate.

**Trends to Watch:** Increase in number of children in out-of-home placements.



	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
<b>Family Economics</b>				
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)		848	5%	1,015
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	1,363	16%	1,521	14%
			1,650	13%
			222,938	26.3%
<b>Starting Out</b>				
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	6	14	15	10
Children born at low birth weight	36	5%	47	6%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)	1,184	11%	1,297	11%
			147,231	17.6%
<b>Signs of Trouble</b>				
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	119	3%	160	3%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	121	51%	222	71%
Children abused and neglected	41	53	63	
Children in out-of-home placements	63	82	143	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	2	1	3	
			171	

(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests



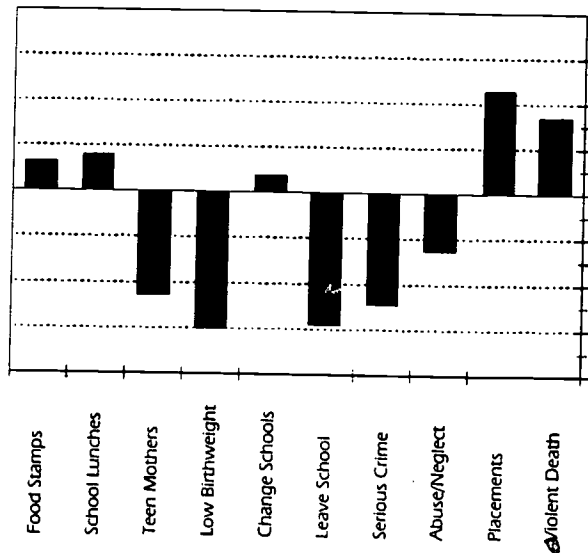
# Sibley

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	14,573
Estimated number of children, 1998	3,989
Estimated % of children, 1998	27.4%
Estimated number of children, 1991	4,112
% change in number of children, 1991-98	-3.0%
Projected population, 2005	14,180
Projected number of children, 2005	3,750

(children defined as under 18)

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Sibley County



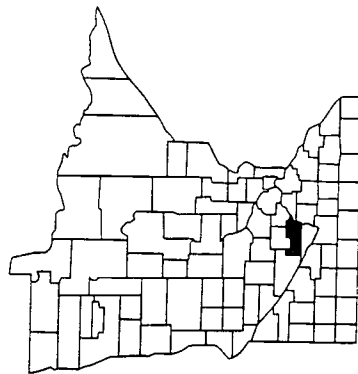
Compared to the Average County 1998  
(definitions for the data are on p. 125)

Sibley County is a moderately small county located in south central Minnesota. The county seat is Gaylord. Over 9% of school children in the county speak Spanish at home. The county had a 1997 per capita personal income of \$18,500. This ranked the county sixty-sixth among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in the county in 1997 were state and local government, services, and construction. Durable goods manufacturing was the fastest growing industry, increasing by almost 6% from 1996 to 1997. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 4%.

**Positives:** Close to the average county for several indicators of child well-being.

**Concerns:** Higher-than-average rates of dropouts, teen births, and percentage of arrests for serious crimes.

**Trends to Watch:** Increase in percentage of children receiving food stamps.



## Family Economics

Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)

Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)

## Starting Out

Children born to teenage mothers (a)

Children born at low birth weight

Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)

## Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)

Children arrested for serious crimes (b)

Children abused and neglected

Children in out-of-home placements

Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries

	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	528	269	381	10%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	528	22%	644	26%
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	3	2	6	22
Children born at low birth weight	9	5%	15	9%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)	283	12%	303	12%
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	26	2%	58	4%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	3	18%	21	66%
Children abused and neglected	37	53	37	10,572
Children in out-of-home placements	25	24	25	18,858
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0	1	0	171

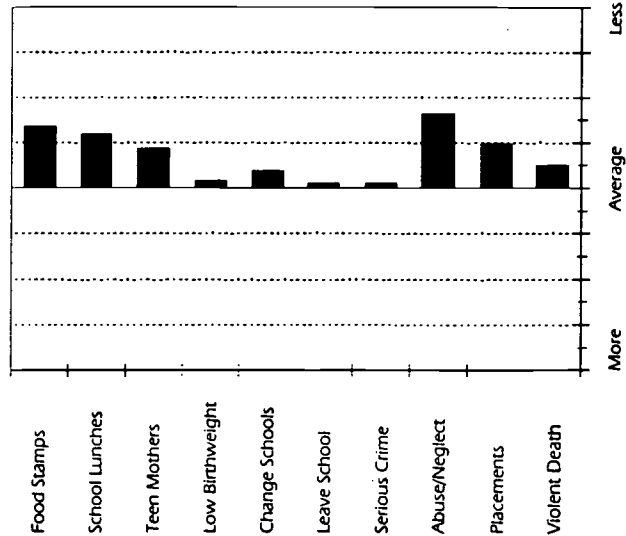
(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

# Stearns

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	128,094
Estimated number of children, 1998	36,995
Estimated % of children, 1998	28.9%
Estimated number of children, 1991	34,204
% change in number of children, 1991-98	8.2%
Projected population, 2005	139,750
Projected number of children, 2005 (children defined as under 18)	43,420

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Stearns County



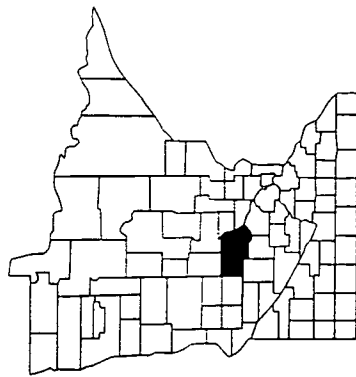
More Average Less  
**Compared to the Average County 1998**  
 (definitions for the data are on p. 125)

Stearns County is located in central Minnesota and is part of the St. Cloud Metropolitan Statistical Area. It is the seventh largest county in Minnesota. The county seat is St. Cloud. Stearns County's per capita personal income of \$19,806 ranked fifty-second among Minnesota counties. Its largest industries in 1996 were services, retail trade, and state and local government. The fastest growing industry was services, increasing more than 7% from 1996 and 1997. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 2.9%.

**Positives:** Close to the average county for all indicators of child well-being.

**Concerns:** None.

**Trends to Watch:** Increase in out-of-home placements.



	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
<b>Family Economics</b>				
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	2,193	6%	2,737	7% 147,791 11.8%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	6,862	26%	7,055	25% 5,903 24% 222,938 26.3%
<b>Starting Out</b>				
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	28	40	15	44 12 1,940 17.7
Children born at low birth weight	94	6%	78	5% 84 5% 3,806 5.8%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)	2,589	10%	3,013	12% 147,231 17.6%
<b>Signs of Trouble</b>				
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	135	1%	252	2% 293 2% 13,180 3.3%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	674	40%	619	44% 492 43% 18,416 46.8%
Children abused and neglected	106	141	141	10,572
Children in out-of-home placements	277	357	399	18,858
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	7	4	5	171

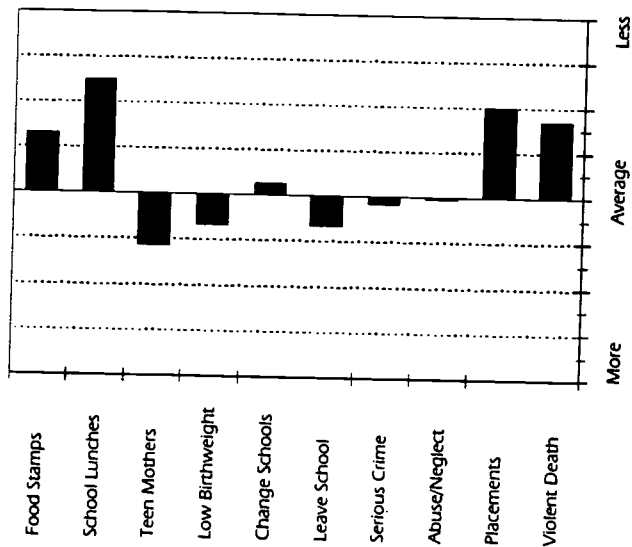
(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

# Steele

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998 .....	31,736
Estimated number of children, 1998 .....	8,881
Estimated % of children, 1998 .....	28.0%
Estimated number of children, 1991 .....	9,130
% change in number of children, 1991-98 .....	-2.7%
Projected population, 2005 .....	32,570
Projected number of children, 2005 .....	9,080
(children defined as under 18)	

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Steele County



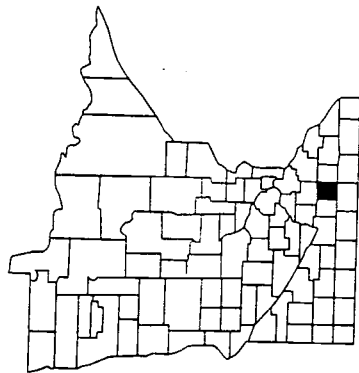
More Average Less  
**Compared to the Average County 1998**  
 (definitions for the data are on p. 125)

Steele County, in southeast Minnesota, is the twenty-ninth largest county in the state. The county seat is Owatonna. Almost 8% of students in the county speak a language other than English at home, mostly Spanish, Hmong or an African language. Its 1997 per capita personal income of \$24,398 was the eighth highest in the state. The largest industries were durable goods manufacturing; services; and finance, insurance, and real estate. Retail trade was the fastest growing sector, increasing over 7% between 1996 and 1997. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 2.2%.

**Positives:** Lower-than-average percentages of children receiving food stamps and free/reduced-price school lunch, and out-of-home placements.

**Concerns:** Higher-than-average rate of teen births.

**Trends to Watch:** No clear trends for the county.



## Family Economics

Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)

Children receiving free/ reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)

## Starting Out

Children born to teenage mothers (a)

Children born at low birth weight

Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)

## Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)

Children arrested for serious crimes (b)

Children abused and neglected

Children in out-of-home placements

Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries

	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	1,181	676	672	8%
Children receiving free/ reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	18	1,195	1,106	17%
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	5	16	13	19
Children born at low birth weight	18	4%	29	7%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)	724	12%	803	13%
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	54	2%	83	3%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	75	36%	92	37%
Children abused and neglected	100	75	62	45%
Children in out-of-home placements	57	99	64	18,858
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	2	3	0	171

(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

232

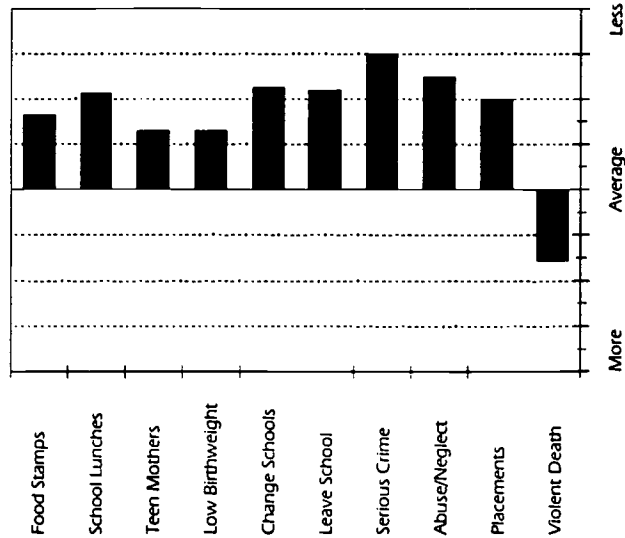
231

# Stevens

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	10,136
Estimated number of children, 1998	2,643
Estimated % of children, 1998	26.1%
Estimated number of children, 1991	2,527
% change in number of children, 1991-98	4.6%
Projected population, 2005	10,850
Projected number of children, 2005 (children defined as under 18)	3,170

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Stevens County



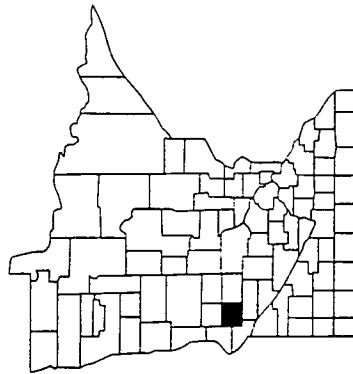
Compared to the Average County 1998  
(definitions for the data are on p. 125)

Stevens County is located in west central Minnesota and is the seventeenth smallest county in the state. The county seat is Morris. In 1997, Stevens County had a per capita personal income of \$21,873. This ranked the county twenty-third among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in Stevens County in 1997 were state and local government, services, and farm. The county's fastest growing industry was construction, which increased by close to 16% between 1996 and 1997. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 2.4%.

**Positives:** Better than the average county for most indicators of child well-being.

**Concerns:** None.

**Trends to Watch:** Increases in school transfers and percentage of children receiving food stamps.



## Family Economics

Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)

	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	499	26%	119	5%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	324	23%	172	7%
	147,791	11.8%	222,938	26.3%

## Starting Out

Children born to teenage mothers (a)

	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	3	0	1	10
Children born at low birth weight	3	3%	4	4%
	3,806	5.8%	147,231	17.6%

Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)

	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)	88	5%	129	7%

## Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)

	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	1	0%	7	1%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	18	42%	38	75%
Children abused and neglected	5	6	6	10,572
Children in out-of-home placements	15	18	19	18,858
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0	1	1	171

(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

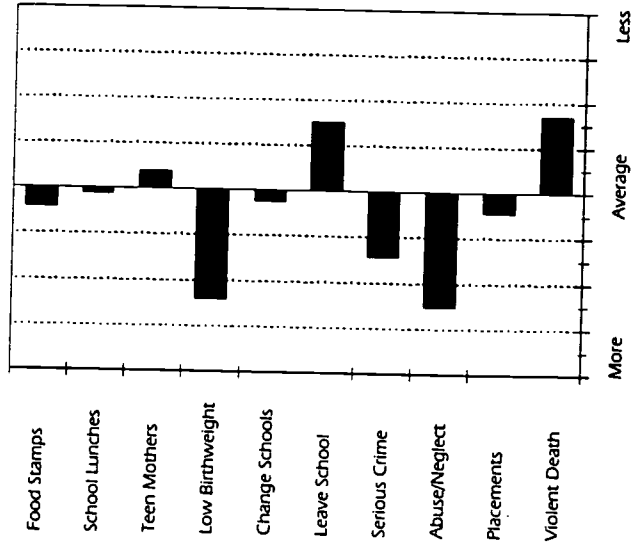
234

# Swift

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	10,804
Estimated number of children, 1998	2,674
Estimated % of children, 1998	24.8%
Estimated number of children, 1991	2,894
% change in number of children, 1991-98	-7.6%
Projected population, 2005	10,990
Projected number of children, 2005	2,600
(children defined as under 18)	

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children In Swift County



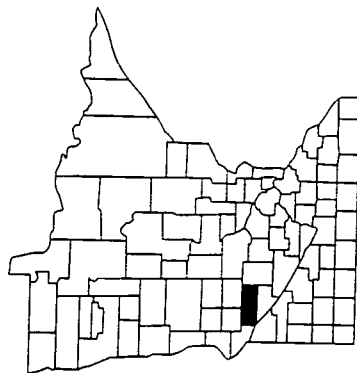
Compared to the Average County 1998  
(definitions for the data are on p. 125)

Swift County is a moderately small county located in west central Minnesota. The county seat is Benson. The county's 1997 per capita personal income was \$20,755, which ranked fortieth among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in Swift County in 1997 were durable goods manufacturing, and services, and state and local government. The fastest growing industry in the county was services, increasing by 40% between 1996 and 1997. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 2.9%.

**Positives:** Close to the average county for many indicators of child well-being.

**Concerns:** Higher-than-average reports of child abuse and neglect, and percentage of low birth weight babies.

**Trends to Watch:** Increase in percentage of children receiving food stamps.



	1991	1995	1998	1998 State				
Family Economics								
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)		199	7%	339	13%	147,791	11.8%	
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	755	35%	728	34%	588	31%	222,938	26.3%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	1	5	13	4	13	1,940	17.7	
Children born at low birth weight	3	2%	6	6%	11	8%	3,806	5.8%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)		224	10%	269	14%	147,231	17.6%	
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	10	1%	18	2%	11	1%	13,180	3.3%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	28	51%	16	50%	38	57%	18,416	46.8%
Children abused and neglected	28		66		31		10,572	
Children in out-of-home placements	20		30		41		18,858	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	2	1	0				171	

(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

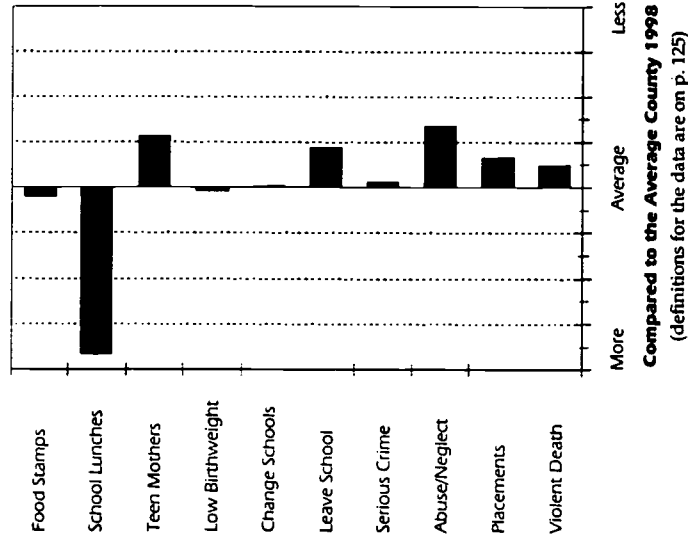


# Todd

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	24,020
Estimated number of children, 1998	7,115
Estimated % of children, 1998	29.6%
Estimated number of children, 1991	7,143
% change in number of children, 1991-98	-0.4%
Projected population, 2005	22,920
Projected number of children, 2005	7,250
(children defined as under 18)	

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Todd County

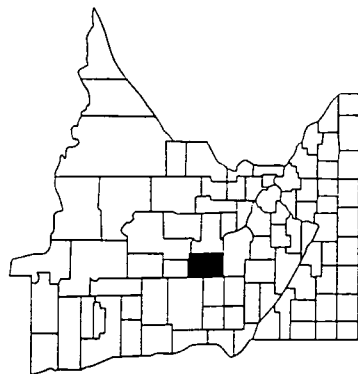


Todd County is a mid-size county located in the central portion of Minnesota. The county seat is Long Prairie. The county's 1997 per capita personal income of \$15,241 was the second lowest among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in the county in 1997 were non-durable goods manufacturing, state and local government, and services. Durable goods manufacturing was the fastest growing industry in Todd County, increasing just over 30% between 1996 and 1997. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 5.2%.

**Positives:** Close to the average county for many indicators of child well-being.

**Concerns:** Higher-than-average number of children receiving free/reduced-price school lunch.

**Trends to Watch:** Increase in out-of-home placements.



	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
<b>Family Economics</b>				
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	722	10%	863	12% 147,791 11.8%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	2,280	47%	2,428	45% 2,333 49% 222,938 26.3%
<b>Starting Out</b>				
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	13	9	18	8 11 1,940 17.7
Children born at low birth weight	20	6%	17	7% 14 5% 3,806 5.8%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)	592	12%	635	13% 147,231 17.6%
<b>Signs of Trouble</b>				
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	40	2%	67	3% 44 2% 13,180 3.3%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	43	35%	45	50% 42 43% 18,416 46.8%
Children abused and neglected	43		34	31 10,572
Children in out-of-home placements	40	76	83	18,858
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0	2	1	171

(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

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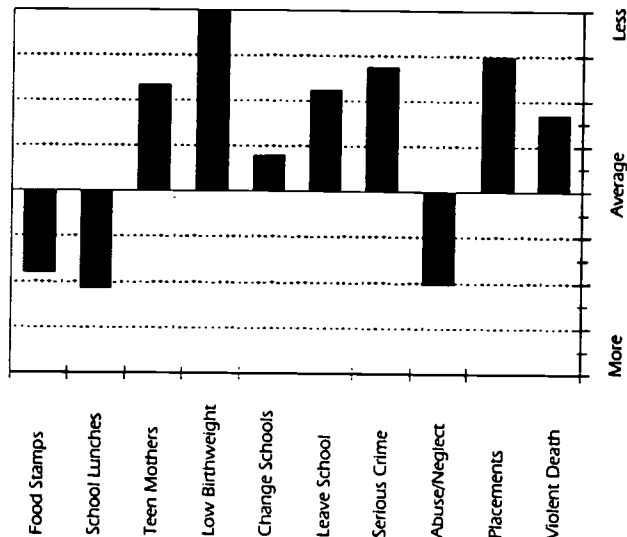


# Traverse

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	4,248
Estimated number of children, 1998	1,031
Estimated % of children, 1998	24.3%
Estimated number of children, 1991	1,146
% change in number of children, 1991-98	-10.1%
Projected population, 2005	3,950
Projected number of children, 2005 (children defined as under 18)	1,040

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Traverse County



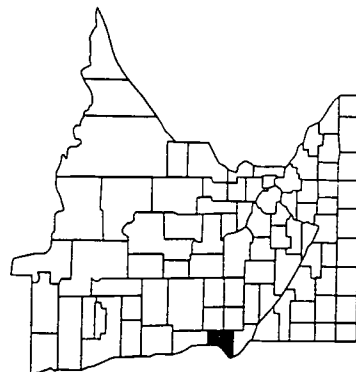
Compared to the Average County 1998  
(definitions for the data are on p. 125)

Traverse County is located in the west central part of the state on the South Dakota border. The county seat is Wheaton. It is the smallest county in Minnesota. The county's 1997 per capita personal income of \$23,833 ranked tenth among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in the county in 1997 were farm, state and local government, and services. The fastest growing industry was finance, insurance, and real estate, which increased by over 32% between 1996 and 1997. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 4.1%.

**Positives:** Lower-than-average rates of teen birth and low birth weight babies, school dropouts, out-of-home placements and percentage of arrests of children for serious crime.

**Concerns:** Higher-than-average percentage of children receiving food stamps and free/reduced-price school lunch, substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect.

**Trends to Watch:** No clear trends for the county.



## Family Economics

Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)

Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)

## Starting Out

Children born to teenage mothers (a)

Children born at low birth weight

Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)

## Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)

Children arrested for serious crimes (b)

Children abused and neglected

Children in out-of-home placements

Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries

	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	323	39%	174	17%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	323	39%	287	41%
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	0	0	0	7
Children born at low birth weight	3	6%	0	0
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)	77	10%	82	11%
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	-	1	2	1%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	9	53%	0	20%
Children abused and neglected	10	16	11	10,572
Children in out-of-home placements	9	0	4	18,858
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0	0	0	171

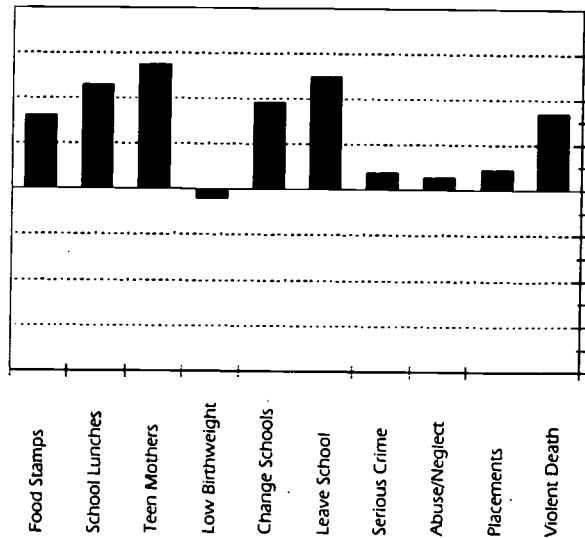
(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

# Wabasha

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	20,943
Estimated number of children, 1998	5,820
Estimated % of children, 1998	27.8%
Estimated number of children, 1991	5,782
% change in number of children, 1991-98	0.7%
Projected population, 2005	20,570
Projected number of children, 2005	5,700
(children defined as under 18)	

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Wabasha County



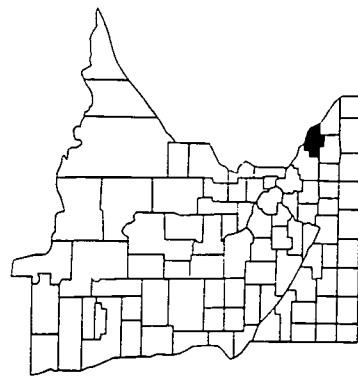
More Average Less  
Compared to the Average County 1998  
(definitions for the data are on p. 125)

Wabasha County is a mid-size county located in southeast Minnesota along the Mississippi River. The county seat is Wabasha. The county's 1997 per capita personal income of \$21,041 ranked thirty-third among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in 1997 were durable goods manufacturing, services, and state and local government. Durable goods manufacturing was also the fastest growing industry, increasing by over 17% between 1996 and 1997. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 2.4%.

**Positives:** Lower than the average county for teen birth rate, school transfers and dropouts, and the percentage of children receiving food stamps and free/reduced-price school lunch.

**Concerns:** None.

**Trends to Watch:** Increase in percentage of children receiving food stamps and number of children in out-of-home placements.



	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
<b>Family Economics</b>				
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	898	20%	385	7%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	241	4%	1,004	18%
<b>Starting Out</b>				
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	6	6	3	6
Children born at low birth weight	8	3%	13	6%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)	369	9%	345	8%
<b>Signs of Trouble</b>				
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	12	1%	8	0%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	22	45%	15	41%
Children abused and neglected	36	18	37	10,572
Children in out-of-home placements	51	84	72	18,858
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0	0	0	171

(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

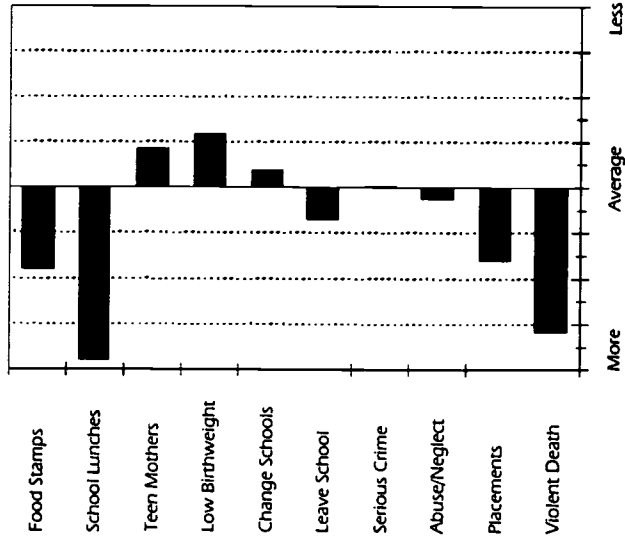
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# Wadena

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	13,145
Estimated number of children, 1998	3,525
Estimated % of children, 1998	26.8%
Estimated number of children, 1991	3,691
% change in number of children, 1991-98	-4.5%
Projected population, 2005	13,490
Projected number of children, 2005	3,540
(children defined as under 18)	

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Wadena County



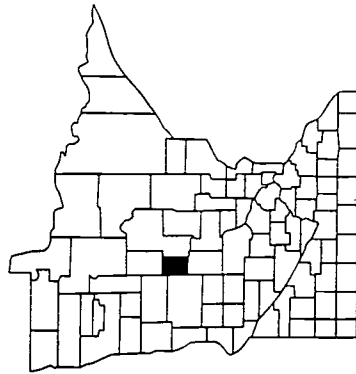
Compared to the Average County 1998  
(definitions for the data are on p. 125)

Wadena County is a moderately small county in the north central portion of Minnesota. The county seat is Wadena. Wadena County's 1996 per capita personal income of \$17,307 ranked tenth lowest among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in 1997 were services, state and local government, and durable goods manufacturing. The fastest growing industry in the county was services, which increased by over 32% between 1996 and 1997. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 4.7%.

**Positives:** Close to the average county for many indicators of child well-being.

**Concerns:** Higher-than-average percentage of children receiving free/reduced-price school lunch and food stamps. The higher-than-average rate of child deaths is probably a one-year fluctuation due to small population size.

**Trends to Watch:** Increase in percentage of children receiving food stamps.



## Family Economics

Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)

Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)

## Starting Out

Children born to teenage mothers (a)

Children born at low birth weight

Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)

## Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)

Children arrested for serious crimes (b)

Children abused and neglected

Children in out-of-home placements

Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries

	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	444	12%	596	17%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	1,474	47%	1,638	50%
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	5	4	4	12
Children born at low birth weight	6	3%	7	4%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)	379	12%	408	12%
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	13	1%	47	3%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	46	28%	61	42%
Children abused and neglected	89	35	26	10,572
Children in out-of-home placements	78	54	68	18,858
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	1	0	2	171

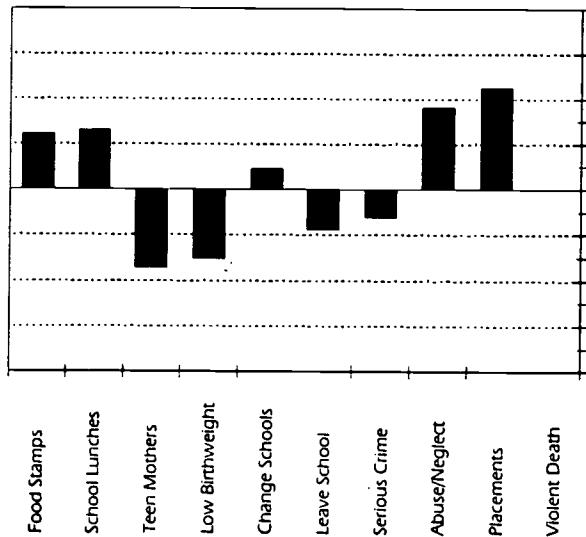
(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

# Waseca

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	18,178
Estimated number of children, 1998	5,087
Estimated % of children, 1998	28.0%
Estimated number of children, 1991	5,302
% change in number of children, 1991-98	-4.1%
Projected population, 2005	17,600
Projected number of children, 2005	4,740
(children defined as under 18)	

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Waseca County



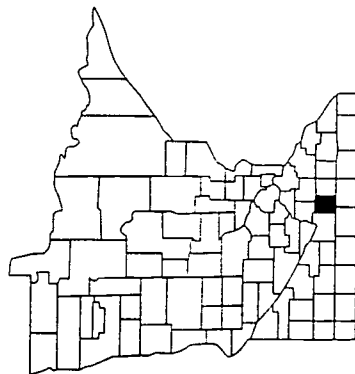
More Average Less  
Compared to the Average County 1998  
(definitions for the data are on p. 125)

Waseca County is a mid-size county located in the southeast portion of Minnesota. The county seat is Waseca. The county's per capita personal income of \$21,659 ranked twenty-fifth among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in the county in 1997 were non-durable goods manufacturing, durable goods manufacturing, and services. The fastest growing industry in Waseca County was transportation and public utilities, increasing by 42% from 1996 to 1997. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 2.7%.

**Positives:** Close to the average county for most indicators of child well-being.

**Concerns:** Higher-than-average rates of teen births and low birth weight babies.

**Trends to Watch:** Increase in school transfers.



	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
<b>Family Economics</b>				
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	386	7%	400	8%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	945	23%	941	23%
<b>Starting Out</b>				
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	4	4	9	20
Children born at low birth weight	11	5%	18	7%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)	395	9%	506	12%
<b>Signs of Trouble</b>				
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	27	2%	65	3%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	23	92%	38	49%
Children abused and neglected	38	12	18	10,572
Children in out-of-home placements	53	45	32	18,858
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	1	1	1	171

(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

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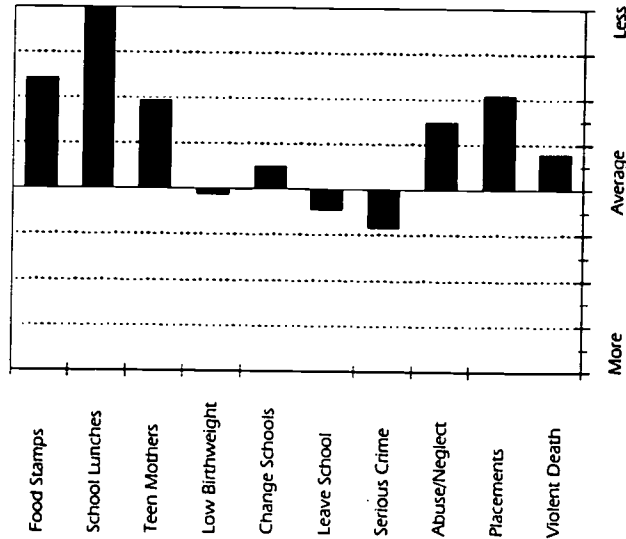
245

# Washington

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	196,486
Estimated number of children, 1998	57,179
Estimated % of children, 1998	29.1%
Estimated number of children, 1991	47,156
% change in number of children, 1991-98	21.3%
Projected population, 2005	221,250
Projected number of children, 2005	65,190
(children defined as under 18)	

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children In Washington County



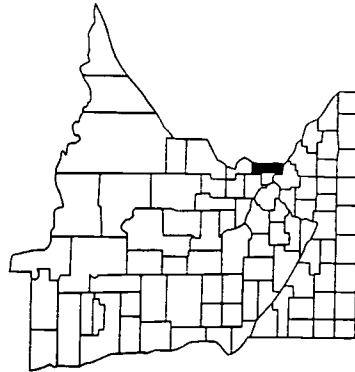
Compared to the Average County 1998  
(definitions for the data are on p. 125)

Washington County is in the eastern part of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Area and borders Wisconsin. The county seat is Stillwater. Washington County is the sixth largest county in Minnesota. Its 1997 per capita personal income of \$27,265 was the fifth highest in the state. Durable goods manufacturing, services, and state and local government were the largest industries in 1997. The fastest growing industry was finance, insurance and real estate, which increased just over 28% between 1996 and 1997. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 1.7%.

**Positives:** Lower-than-average percentages of children receiving food stamps and free/reduced-priced school lunch, teen births, and out-of-home placements.

**Concerns:** None.

**Trends to Watch:** Decrease in teen birth rate.



## Family Economics

Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)

Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)

## Starting Out

Children born to teenage mothers (a)

Children born at low birth weight

Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)

## Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)

Children arrested for serious crimes (b)

Children abused and neglected

Children in out-of-home placements

Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries

	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	3,185	1,756	2,400	4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	3,185	3,845	3,487	10%
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	45	57	50	8
Children born at low birth weight	104	156	148	6%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)	4,119	4,192	4,192	12%
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	501	458	435	3%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	747	614	601	52%
Children abused and neglected	219	148	235	10,572
Children in out-of-home placements	371	436	395	18,858
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	7	9	6	171

(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

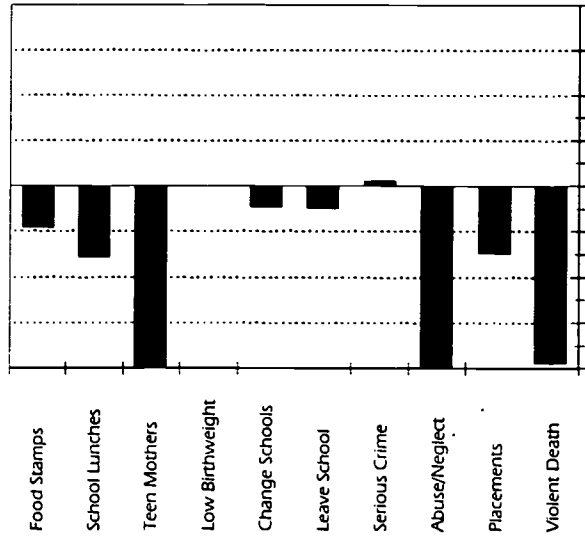


# Watonwan

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998 .....	11,470
Estimated number of children, 1998 .....	3,076
Estimated % of children, 1998 .....	26.8%
Estimated number of children, 1991 .....	3,546
% change in number of children, 1991-98 .....	-13.3%
Projected population, 2005 .....	11,160
Projected number of children, 2005 .....	3,000
(children defined as under 18)	

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Watonwan County



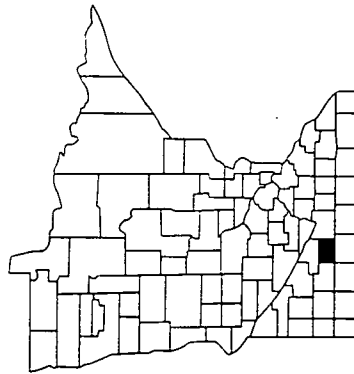
More Average Less  
Compared to the Average County 1998  
(definitions for the data are on p. 125)

249

Watonwan County is a moderately small county located in the south central portion of Minnesota, near the Iowa border. The county seat is St. James. About 20% of school children in the county speak Spanish at home. Its 1997 per capita personal income was \$20,434, forty-fourth among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in 1997 were non-durable goods manufacturing, farm, and services. The fastest growing industry was transportation and public utilities, increasing almost 10% between 1996 and 1997. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 2.8%.

**Positives:** Close to the average county for many indicators of child well-being.  
**Concerns:** Higher-than-average rate of teen births, and substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect. The higher-than-average rate of child deaths is probably a one-year fluctuation due to small population size.

**Trends to Watch:** Increase in percentage of children receiving food stamps.



	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
<b>Family Economics</b>				
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)		259	436	14%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	727	34%	833	38%
<b>Starting Out</b>				
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	5	7	7	43
Children born at low birth weight	11	6%	9	5%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)	351	16%	317	15%
<b>Signs of Trouble</b>				
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	16	2%	24	2%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	26	42%	27	41%
Children abused and neglected	29	40	48	43%
Children in out-of-home placements	37	67	58	48%
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	1	0	2	171

(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

250

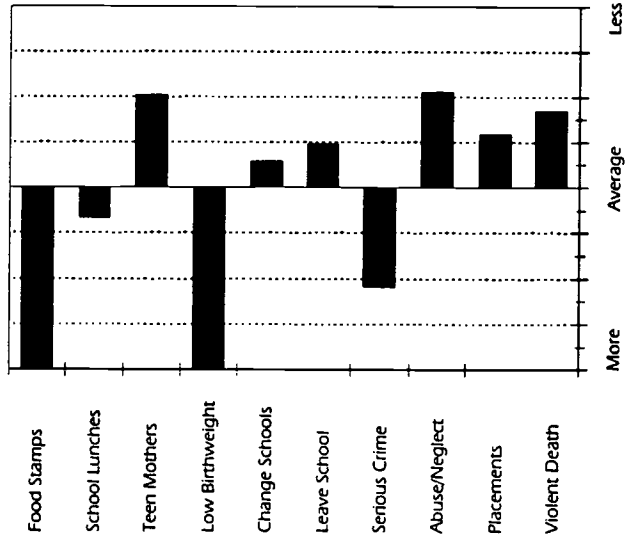


# Wilkin

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	7,312
Estimated number of children, 1998	2,011
Estimated % of children, 1998	27.5%
Estimated number of children, 1991	2,128
% change in number of children, 1991-98	-5.5%
Projected population, 2005	6,980
Projected number of children, 2005	1,790
(children defined as under 18)	

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Wilkin County



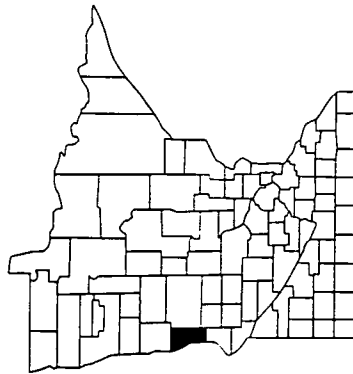
Compared to the Average County 1998  
(definitions for the data are on p. 125)

Wilkin County is located in west central Minnesota on the North Dakota border. It is the tenth smallest county in the state. The county seat is Breckenridge. About 4% of school children in the county speak Spanish at home. Its 1997 per capita personal income of \$20,490 ranked forty-third among Minnesota counties. The largest industries were services, state and local government and farm. The fastest growing industry was construction, which increased just over 35% between 1996 and 1997. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 2%.

**Positives:** Lower-than-average rate of teen births and substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect.

**Concerns:** Higher-than-average percentage of children receiving food stamps, low birth weight babies, and percentage of arrests of children for serious crimes.

**Trends to Watch:** Increase in percentage of children receiving food stamps, decrease in out-of-home placements.



## Family Economics

Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)

Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)

## Starting Out

Children born to teenage mothers (a)

Children born at low birth weight

Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)

## Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)

Children arrested for serious crimes (b)

Children abused and neglected

Children in out-of-home placements

Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries

	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	379	18%	567	28%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	562	35%	493	34%
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	4	4	21	0
Children born at low birth weight	5	5%	8	11%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)	201	13%	175	12%
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	8	1%	10	1%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	56	67%	53	63%
Children abused and neglected	35	18	6	10,572
Children in out-of-home placements	41	43	20	18,858
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	1	0	0	171

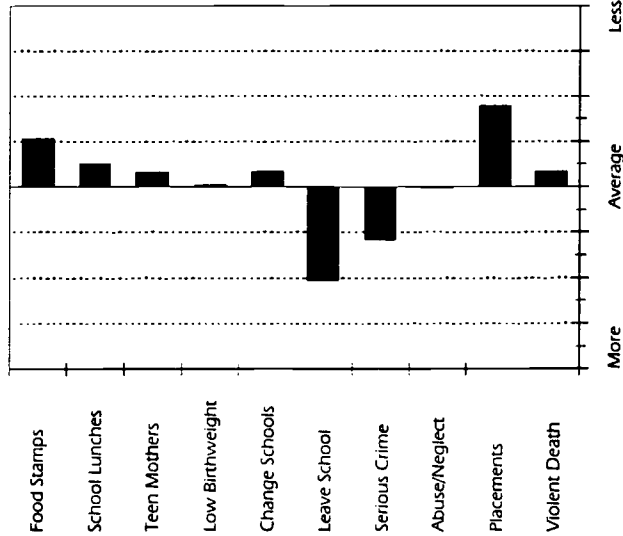
(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

# Winona

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	48,080
Estimated number of children, 1998	12,693
Estimated % of children, 1998	26.4%
Estimated number of children, 1991	11,910
% change in number of children, 1991-98	6.6%
Projected population, 2005	50,760
Projected number of children, 2005	14,480
(children defined as under 18)	

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Winona County



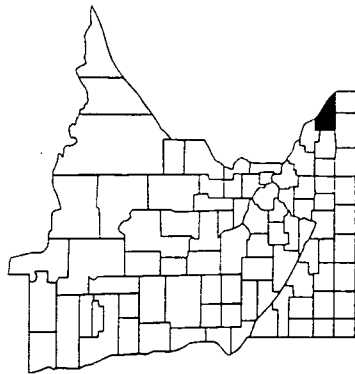
Compared to the Average County 1998  
(definitions for the data are on p. 125)

Winona, the eighteenth largest county, is located in southeastern Minnesota, bordering the Mississippi River. The county seat is Winona. About 5% of school children speak a language other than English at home. Its per capita personal income was \$21,250 in 1997, ranking twentieth in the state. The largest industries in 1997 were services, durable goods manufacturing, and non-durable goods manufacturing. The fastest growing industry was wholesale trade, which increased 16% between 1996 and 1997. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 2.2%.

**Positives:** Close to the average county for most indicators of child well-being.

**Concerns:** Higher-than-average percent of children dropping out of school.

**Trends to Watch:** Decrease in teen birth rate, increase in out-of-home placements.



	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
<b>Family Economics</b>				
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	981	8%	1,047	8%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	1,855	23%	1,838	23%
			1,846	28%
			222,938	26.3%
<b>Starting Out</b>				
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	21	27	19	12
				14
Children born at low birth weight	38	6%	29	5%
			30	5%
			3,806	5.8%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)	914	14%	840	12%
			147,231	17.6%
<b>Signs of Trouble</b>				
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	114	4%	155	5%
			126	4%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	142	37%	197	47%
			175	54%
Children abused and neglected	69	89	88	10,572
Children in out-of-home placements	67	81	100	18,858
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	2	2	2	171

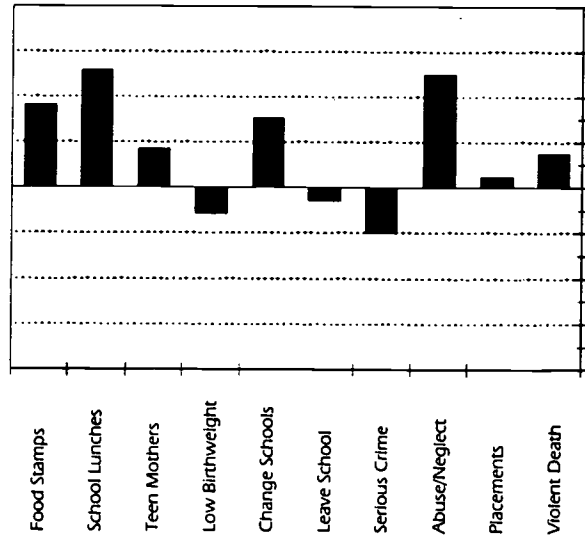
(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

# Wright

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	85,123
Estimated number of children, 1998	26,982
Estimated % of children, 1998	31.7%
Estimated number of children, 1991	23,230
% change in number of children, 1991-98	16.2%
Projected population, 2005	89,840
Projected number of children, 2005	28,070
(children defined as under 18)	

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Wright County



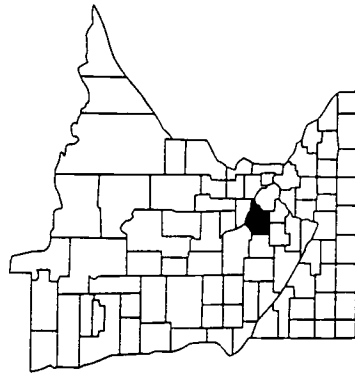
More Average Less  
**Compared to the Average County 1998**  
 (definitions for the data are on p. 125)

Wright County is located in the western portion of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Area. The county seat is Buffalo. It is the ninth largest county in Minnesota. Wright County had a 1996 per capita personal income of \$23,202, which ranked fourteenth among Minnesota counties. Its largest industries in 1997 were services, state and local government, and durable goods manufacturing. The fastest growing industry was durable goods manufacturing, increasing by almost 13% between 1996 and 1997. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 2.7%.

**Positives:** Lower-than-average percentages of children receiving free/reduced-price lunches and food stamps, substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect, and school transfers.

**Concerns:** None.

**Trends to Watch:** Decrease in teen births, increase in low birth weight babies.



## Family Economics

Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)

Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)

## Starting Out

Children born to teenage mothers (a)

Children born at low birth weight

Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)

## Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)

Children arrested for serious crimes (b)

Children abused and neglected

Children in out-of-home placements

Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries

	1991	1995	1998	1998 State
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	2,591	1,098	1,634	147,791
	17%	4%	6%	11.8%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	2,591	3,015	3,094	222,938
	17%	18%	17%	26.3%
Children born to teenage mothers (a)	24	26	20	1,940
				17.7
Children born at low birth weight	51	41	82	3,806
	4%	3%	6%	5.8%
Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)	1,748	10%	1,644	147,231
			9%	17.6%
Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	118	2%	211	13,180
			3%	3.3%
Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	50	15%	359	18,416
			57%	46.8%
Children abused and neglected	119	66	61	10,572
Children in out-of-home placements	244	399	354	18,858
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	4	3	3	171

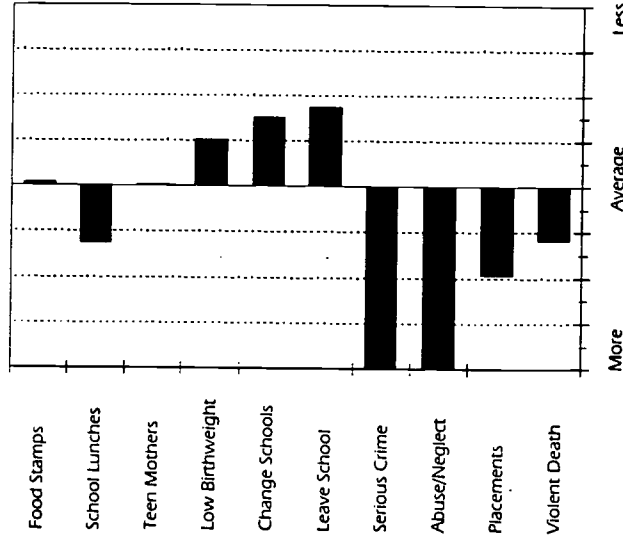
(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

# Yellow Medicine

## Demographics

Estimated population, 1998	11,416
Estimated number of children, 1998	2,988
Estimated % of children, 1998	26.2%
Estimated number of children, 1991	3,180
% change in number of children, 1991-98	-6.0%
Projected population, 2005	10,790
Projected number of children, 2005	2,750
(children defined as under 18)	

## Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Yellow Medicine County



More Average Less  
**Compared to the Average County 1998**  
 (definitions for the data are on p. 125)

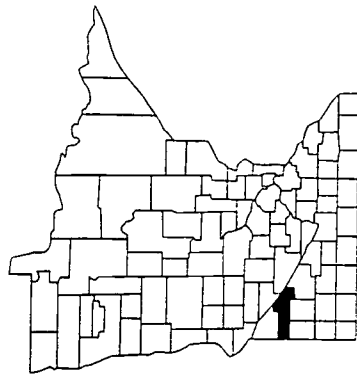
257

Yellow Medicine County is a moderately small county located on the South Dakota border in the southwestern portion of Minnesota. The county seat is Granite Falls. The Upper Sioux Indian Reservation is located within its borders. Its 1997 per capita personal income of \$21,076 ranks thirty-second among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in 1997 were farm, state and local government, and services. From 1996 to 1997, the fastest growing industry was services, which increased over 6%. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 3.4%.

**Positives:** Lower-than-average rates of school transfers and dropouts.

**Concerns:** Higher-than-average number of substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect, and out-of-home placements. The high percentage of arrests of children for serious crime reflects a low number of adult arrests.

**Trends to Watch:** Increases in child abuse and neglect reports and out-of-home placements.



1991 1995 1998 1998 State

## Family Economics

Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)

Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 98-99) (<185% poverty)	888	37%	166	5%	336	11%	147,791	11.8%
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## Starting Out

Children born to teenage mothers (a)

Children born to teenage mothers (a)	4	5	19	5	15	1,940	17.7
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Children born at low birth weight

Children born at low birth weight	4	3%	5	4%	5	4%	3,806	5.8%
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Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)

Children changing schools (95-96, 97-98)	156	7%	206	9%	147,231	17.6%
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## Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)

Children dropping out of school (91-92, 95-96, 97-98)	10	1%	13	1%	11	1%	13,180	3.3%
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Children arrested for serious crimes (b)

Children arrested for serious crimes (b)	13	45%	15	47%	4	80%	18,416	46.8%
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Children abused and neglected

Children abused and neglected	21	20	46	10,572
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Children in out-of-home placements

Children in out-of-home placements	30	48	61	18,858
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Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries

Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0	0	1	171
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(a) rates for 93-95, 95-97, 96-98 (b) % of all arrests

258

# Data Notes

## DEMOGRAPHICS

### Estimated Population, Projected Population

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, <http://www.census.gov/> (estimated population), Office of the State Demographer, <http://mnplan.state.mn.us/> (population projections.)

### Per Capita Personal Income

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce. <http://www.bea.doc.gov/bea/regional/spi/index.html>  
Definition: The personal income of an area is defined as the income received by, or on behalf of, all the residents of the area. It consists of the income received by persons from all sources. Per capita personal income is calculated as the personal income of the residents of an area divided by the population of the area.

### Unemployment Rate

Source: Minnesota Department of Economic Security, <http://www.des.state.mn.us/lmi/laus/laus1.htm>.

Definition: "Unemployed persons" includes all civilian, non-institutionalized persons aged 16 or older who, during the week of the 12th, were not employed, available for work, and engaged in job-seeking activities during the last 4 weeks; waiting to be called back to a job from which they were laid off; or waiting to report (within 30 days) to a new wage or salaried job. "Unemployed persons" does not count persons who worked at least one hour during the week of the 12th and persons with a job but not at work.

### Major Industries and Growth

Source: Bear Facts, Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce.

<http://www.bea.doc.gov/bea/regional/bearfacts/index.htm>

Definition: The largest industries are defined as those having the highest amount of earnings during that calendar year. The fastest growing industries are selected among those industries that accounted for at least 5% of total earnings.

### Children Speaking a Language Other Than English at Home

Source: Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning

## INDICATORS

### Children Living in Poverty

Source: US Bureau of the Census, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, <http://www.census.gov/hhes/turwv/saipe.html>  
Definition: An estimate of the number of children below the federal poverty line (see guidelines on page 9.) The Census Bureau creates this estimate based on administrative data derived from tax returns, counts of food stamp participants, data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), decennial census estimates, intercensal population estimates, and the March Current Population Survey (CPS). A complete report on the methodology is available at <http://www.census.gov/hhes/turwv/saipe/techdoc/strategy.html>.

(continued on page 124)



Data Notes, continued from page 123

### Children Receiving Food Stamps

Source: Minnesota Department of Human Services, Reports and Forecasts Division. (651) 296-6975

Definition: The number of children receiving food stamps during July of each year. The percentage is the number of children receiving food stamps divided by the estimated total number of children in the state or county. Numbers for Mille Lacs County do not include the Mille Lacs County Band of Ojibwe. Not all income-eligible children participate in the program. PLEASE NOTE: These numbers have been revised for all years since publication of the 1999 data book.

### Children Receiving Free/Reduced-Price School Lunches

Source: Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning, <http://cfl.state.mn.us/datactr/datactr2.htm>

Definition: The number of children approved to receive these meals in October of each school year. Family income must be below 185% of the Federal Poverty Level (see guidelines on page 9.) The percentage is the number of children approved divided by the total enrollment. Schools are assigned to the county where their district offices are located. Not all income-eligible children participate in the program, and private- and home-schooled children are not included.

### Children Born to Teenage Mothers

Source: Minnesota Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, <http://www.mnplan.state.mn.us/datanetweb/health.html>

Definition: The number of children born to women who were less than age 18 at the time of birth. The rate of births is a three-year average of the number of births to 15- to 17-year-olds divided by the estimated population of females aged 15-17 years. This provides larger numbers and more accurate rates at the county level. Information is collected from birth certificates, and births are assigned to the county in which the mother resides, even if the birth occurs in a different county.

### Children Born at Low Birth Weight

Source: Minnesota Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, <http://www.mnplan.state.mn.us/datanetweb/health.html>

Definition: The number of infants weighing less than 2500 grams (5.5. pounds) at birth. The percentage is the number of these births divided by the total number of births. Information is collected from birth certificates, and births are assigned to the county in which the mother resides, even if the birth occurs in a different county.

### Children Changing Schools

Source: Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning, <http://cfl.state.mn.us/datactr/datactr2.htm>

Definition: A count of student transfers into and out of schools in other districts and between schools within a district. The percentage of transfers (or Mobility Index) is calculated by adding together the mid-year enrollments, transfers and withdrawals and then dividing by the district's October 1 enrollment. Schools are assigned to the county where their district offices are located.

### Children Dropping Out of School

Source: Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning, <http://cfl.state.mn.us/datactr/datactr2.htm>

Definition: The number of students in grades 9-12 who drop out of school each year, i.e. they have not re-enrolled by October of the next school year. The percentage is the number of students dropping out divided by the total enrollment of



grades 7-12. Schools are assigned to the county where their district offices are located, and private- and home-schooled children are not included.

#### **Children Arrested for Serious Crime**

Source: Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, <http://www.dps.state.mn.us/bca/CJIS/Documents/>

Definition: The number of children under 18 arrested for Part I crimes (murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, vehicle theft and arson). The percentage is the number of children arrested divided by the total number of children and adults arrested for Part I crimes. Not all children arrested for serious crimes committed these crimes, and some children are not arrested for crimes that they actually committed.

#### **Children Abused and Neglected**

Source: Minnesota Department of Human Services, <http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/childint/Maltreatment/default.htm>

Definition: The number of children for whom a report of child abuse or neglect was substantiated by a county child protection worker. The rate is the number of these children divided by the estimated total number of children and multiplied by 1,000. Substantiated abuse means that the county has conducted an assessment in response to a report and found that maltreatment occurred.

#### **Children in Out-of-Home Placements**

Source: Minnesota Department of Human Services, (651) 296-2831

Definition: The number of children who spent time in foster care, group homes, emergency shelter or residential treatment facilities during the year, including those formally placed with relatives. The rate is the number of these children divided by the estimated total number of children and multiplied by 1,000. This figure does not include children in correctional facilities.

#### **Children Dying from Homicide, Suicide and Injury**

Source: Minnesota Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, <http://www.minnplan.state.mn.us/datanetweb/health.html>

Definition: The number of children dying from homicide, suicide and unintentional injuries, including motor vehicle crashes (as drivers, passengers or bystanders), falls, and drowning. The rate is the number of children dying divided by the estimated total number of children, multiplied by 10,000. The information is obtained from death certificates, which may not always be completed accurately, especially in cases of child abuse deaths or suicides.

#### **About the Bar Graphs for Counties**

The graphs allow comparison of multiple indicators within a county. At a glance, you are also able to see how a county compares to the state average for each indicator. The "County Average" is the mean of all counties' data points. Each thin line represents one standard deviation above or below the average.

Standard scores for each indicator (also known as z-scores) are computed by taking the difference between each data point and the mean, and dividing it by the standard deviation (a measure of the degree to which all of the counties' data points cluster around the mean.)

# Minnesota Kids: A Closer Look



**A project of  
Children's Defense Fund-  
Minnesota**



Children's Defense Fund - Minnesota,  
200 University Ave. W. Suite 210, St. Paul, MN 55103; 651/227-6121; [www.cdf-mn.org](http://www.cdf-mn.org)

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